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Behind the 'dearth' of rabies vaccine

A lack of forecasting, irregular demand from States and poor coordination result in India facing a shortage every year

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Every year from November to March, when the weather improves across most of India and people begin to spill out of their homes, the mating season for dogs begins. This brings on aggression and bites and attacks increase. "There are on an average six to seven million dog bites every year in India. Each dog bite will require five doses of vaccine. Many cases may also go unreported and not all patients who are bitten get their vaccines on time," says Dr. Simmi Tiwari, Joint Director, Public Health, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

Between March 6 and 12, for instance, four deaths by dog bite were reported by the NCDC. None of the deceased had got the rabies vaccine after the bite. Those who had come into contact with the people who died were advised vaccination.

Yet, in States such as Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the emphasis on procurement of rabies vaccine is low, say government officials.

"In other States such as Kerala, there was a shortage. So they raised demands for stocks to be moved from neighbouring Tamil Nadu," an NCDC official notes. But earlier this year, the Central Research Institute in Kasauli had to discard vaccine vials due to a lack of demand.

India's rabies vaccine market is growing at a steady rate. In 2022, its market value stood at $141.4 million, while the 2023 estimated value is at $147.6 million, Coherent Market Insights, a market research agency, says. It is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.2% between 2023 and 2030.

However, last September, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) reported that it had only 5,000 doses of vaccine left for 2022, with many municipal corporation hospitals not having them at all.

While many States report a vaccine shortage, a research centre in Kasauli had to discard vaccine vials earlier this year due to a lack of demand.

There had been nearly 13,000 dog bites registered in Delhi alone from January to December. A late tender meant that the 30,000 additional doses they had wanted to procure would be delayed.

Managing the supply chain

Manufacturers say State and Central governments fail to forecast demand, leading to delays. "A low manufacturing capacity requires orders to be placed in advance, so we can cater to larger volumes on time. At times, demands from States are delayed by many months making it difficult for us to cater to the demand on time," a senior executive working closely with one of rabies vaccine manufacturers says.

The rabies vaccine is lyophilized (freeze dried) and filled in vials in powdered form.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

Centre plans an 'overhaul' of its research institutions

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), which is the main source of funds and sustenance for at least 30 autonomous research bodies (some of them of global prestige), is in the middle of a "rationalisation" exercise that involves merging, "disengaging" and even closure of organisations.

The exercise is part of a larger project initiated to reduce the number of autonomous institutions funded by various Ministries. A document, viewed by *The Hindu* and dated 2020, says that with regard to the 30 autonomous bodies, the Finance Ministry recommended that eight be retained without change and 18 be merged into two.

'NO BUDGETARY CUTS'
» PAGE 10

Byju's faces ED searches over 'FEMA violations'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched the premises of Think & Learn Private Ltd., which runs the portal Byju's, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Two business premises of the company and a residential property linked to Byju's founder Raveendran Byju were searched under provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act.

The ED revealed that ₹28,000 crore of Foreign Direct Investment into the firm is under the scanner.

MORE SCRUTINY
» PAGE 10

NEARBY

People will respond to abuse with votes: PM

KALABURAGI
Responding to All-India Congress Committee president M. Mallikarjun Kharge's "venomous snake" remark against him and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah's "corrupt Lingayat CM" comment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the response to such "verbal abuse" would come in the form of the results of the Assembly elections in Karnataka. » Page 8

3,773 people vote from home

BENGALURU
A total of 3,773 people aged above 80 and persons with disabilities in Bengaluru exercised their franchise from the comforts of their home on Saturday. The consolidated number of the "vote from home" exercise on day one from across the State is still not available. » Page 6

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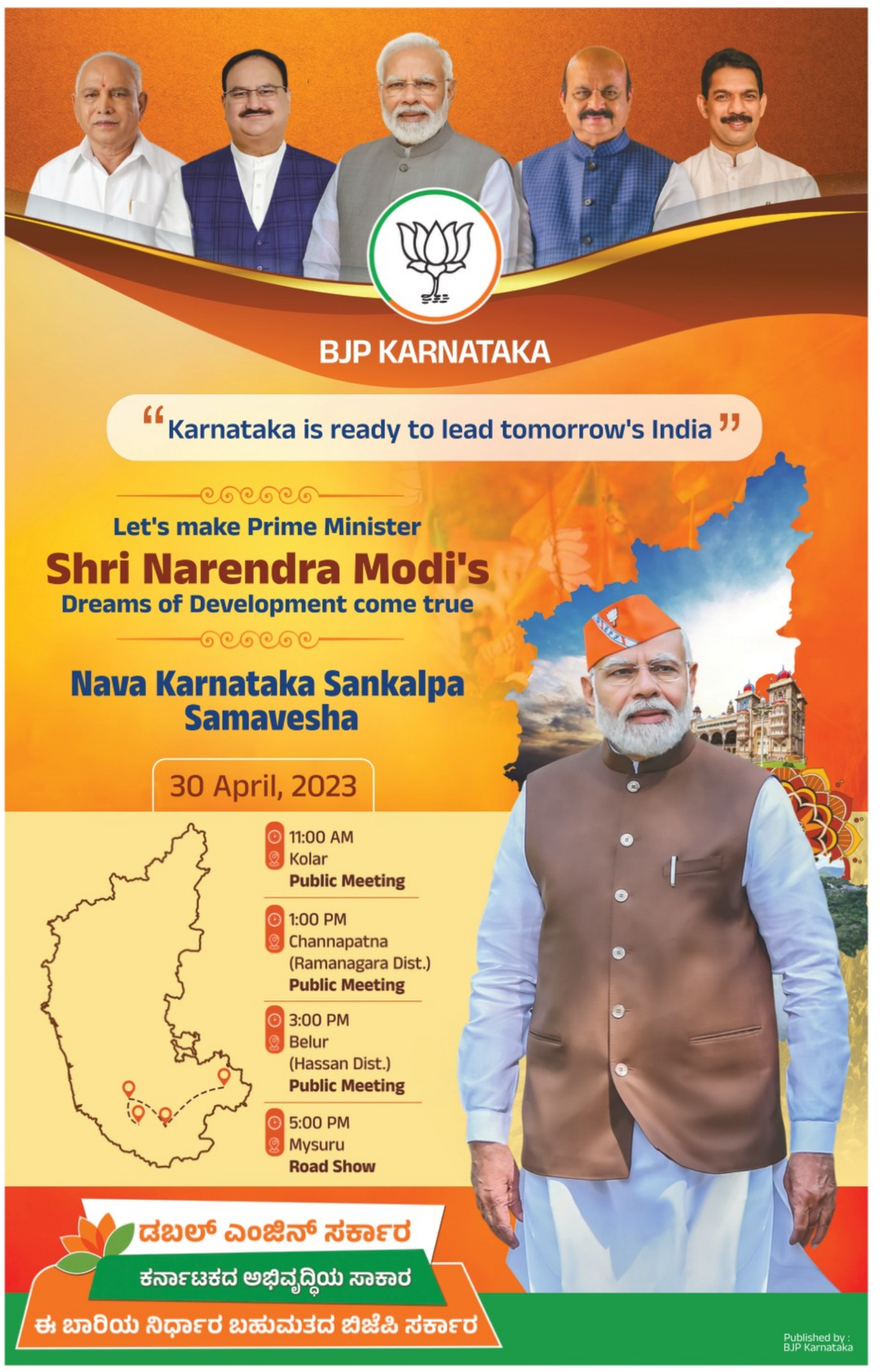

Burning city: Black smoke rises over Khartoum, where fighting is on despite rival forces agreeing to extend a truce aimed to stem nearly two weeks of warfare that has killed hundreds and caused widespread destruction. AFP

Taking sides: Sudanese soldiers, loyal to Army chief Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, sit atop a tank in the Red Sea city of Port Sudan. AFP

Families displaced: Passenger buses wait at a rest-stop near Ganetti in Sudan's Northern State. AFP

Generals in a labyrinth

Sudan, which was promised a democratic transition, is caught in a conflict between two men in fatigues

Sudan is the first child of the spirit of Bandung. In 1955, leaders from countries that were colonised until then gathered in the Indonesian hill station of Bandung and gave the call for decolonisation of the developing world. The conference ended on a high note but then no one really thought that the call of the newly independent countries like India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Burma (Myanmar) and Egypt would necessarily bear fruit. In January 1956, Sudan was born. The birth of an independent Sudan boosted decolonisation in Africa and soon Morocco, Tunisia and others attained independence.

Despite such a promising start, Sudan has remained caught in conflict and instability from the beginning. The latest crisis in Sudan stems from a dispute over sharing of state power in the aftermath of the overthrow of long-term dictator Omar Al-Bashir who ruled Sudan for three decades.

The seeds of the crisis lay in the cast of characters who emerged after the departure of Al-Bashir. As per the 2019 agreement among the civilian and the military groups, Sudan was expected to become a democracy through a transitional period in which both the civilian and the military figures were to have positions of authority. There were discordant notes from the beginning.

Lieutenant General Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, who heads the powerful Rapid Support Forces, was from the previous regime who helped Al-Bashir quell the rebellion in Darfur in the early 2000s. After 2019, his influence kept growing making the Sudanese military under the leadership of General Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan uncomfortable. The two powerful wings of the Sudanese state came close to clashing in March when it became clear that General Burhan wanted the RSF to be merged into the Sudanese Armed Forces, which would ultimately come under civilian authority.

The two wings further disagreed on the time-frame for heading into civilian rule. General Burhan wanted a shorter timeline and Dagalo wanted a longer period. As these differences persisted, tensions escalated leading to the all-out violence where both sides unleashed their arsenal on each other, killing many unarmed civilians and displacing thousands including the bulk of Sudan's foreign workers.

Text by Kallol Bhattacherjee

Rocked by fight: Explosions and gunfire have scarred Sudan's capital during the heavy fighting. AFP

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WANTED BRIDEGROOM –For unmarried my cousin and daughter –a)1985 Born Doctor working All India Civil Services– Revenue in Chennai No Sibling expecting same Cadre and b) 32/165,A. P. GEC,M.E.,Ph.D. No sibling Hindu SC AD –Retd Director GOI/ wife–Vellalar –MVSc., Doctors settled in Chennai preferred. CNB –matri9757@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

SEEKING SUITABLE match from Unmarried groom for 39 years 158 cm, B.Tech, MBA, Lecturer. Hindu SC. CNB: Ct: 8137003061

WANTED ELITE GROOM
Girl is 23-years-old traditional Malayali Ezhava Rich/Affluent family. Pooram and completed Graduate, presently in Family business as one of the Directors. Bridegroom to be Chennai based, Rich/Affluent Malayali Ezhava, well settled and qualified having similar background. Horoscope matching is essential.
Email contact:
Sushama.1250@gmail.com

MS (ENT) Doctor, Ezhava Girl, 33, Aswathy, 162 cm, seeking proposal from Doctors. Cont: 7736924676, 7010699546

Nair Girl, 30, 5'4", Remarriage, Upper Middle Class, B.Tech, MBA, Ernakulam based, employed as HR manager in MNC. Proposals invited from parents of well employed Nair/Menon Boys, Age Group 31-34 years.
Ph. 9961368211

MALAYALAM

SEEKING SUITABLE match from Unmarried groom for 38 years 152 cm, MBBS, IFS, Hindu SC, CNB Ct: 8137003061

MBA / CA / ICWA

SM4 SINGHAL Girl 5'4"/June 1992, B.Tech MBA(XLRI) 24 LPA, Pref MBA Qual. boy in NCR M:7533807993, nitink_singhal@yahoo.co.in

PUNJABI

AGE 34, Height 5'3", Qualification: PHD, Working as Professor, Sister : Dentist (Married in Canada) Nai SikhGursikh Boy preferred Preferred Delhi region Ph 6280501367

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM BE MBA 28/157 Fair Working in MNC Seeks Well Settled Bridegroom. Contact : 98424 13663

ADIDRIVADIAR SC RC Christian 34/165 MCA Salary 50K PM Seeks Suitable Groom, Ct: 94455 07220

✔ **HIGHLY ACADEMICALLY inclined Nadar Christian family, invites suitable proposals for their professionally qualified, cultured, fair, pretty 83' born daughter, from similar candidates with clean habits. Marthomites are also considered. Ph:9176070624 / thankannam@gmail.com**

Nadar Christian 29/157 Govt.Empld M.com, Divorce with a Son. 1st/divorce groom blw35. No brk. Ph: 9952083480

CHRISTIAN Tamil 36 Graduate Divorcee without issue with settled job seeks B'lore based same Caste Groom Contact 8762217527

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

RC AD, Dec-1988, Fair 164cm MBBS Govt. Service seeks suitable Groom. CT: 9487284707.

CHRISTIAN NADAR girl, God–fearing, fair, beautiful rich with MBA Finance degree, working in a Multinational Company looking for a groom who is well educated, well settled from an affluent family age within 35, Parents Contact Send your bio–data to 9840820508.

MUSLIM 24, P.G IT, Tidelpark, Fair/ Beautiful Pious, Soft, seeks well educated Groom: Dr.Zakir 9400690718

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR EliteFamily 31/165 Mirugsiam. Raghu in Lagnm PG (HR MNC) Seeks IIM/M.Tech Grom 9176780777

MUDALIAR (CNB): 25/V.Fair, B. Arch,Having own Multi Cuisine Restaurant, Commercial Complex, Construction Business, Elite Family, Chennai – Seeks Groom Business / Doctor / Abroad – 7358510790

YADAVA GIRL age 25 BE Working in Software co 9L. P/A seeking yadava groom CT 9381382000

HINDU NADAR 27, BE, 165cm, Working in Bosch, Income 130000 Seeks Suitable Groom KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

KULALA (TELUGU), 26/160, BE, Uthiradam, 2nd marriage, issueless, short lived. Seeks suitable groom from educated family, working professional not more than 34, Ct: 80757 60926.

VANIYA CHETTIAR, M.Sc, 43/157, Karthigai, Govt. Scntf. Officer seeks equally Qualified Employed Groom. Contact: 94452 07116

MUDALIAR,29/169cms, B.Arch M.S (Italy), Project Officer, Delhi, Father CA Auditor, Mother Retd Professor, Affluent & Educated. Looking Profsnly Qlfd match frm any equal community. abroad/India.9994022447,9994022440

HINDU GAVARA Thanjavur 31/162 Poosam Kadagam MBBS, DGO, MS (O&G) Govt, Employee seeking bridegroom any Naidu MBBS with PG, Group1 Officer below 35 any hindu BC FC preferred within Tamilnadu or Pondy whatsapp 9789742455/9786154291

VANIYA CHETTIAR Poorattathi 27/165, Fair, MBBS, Govt. Doctor, Pondicherry, Seeks Doctor groom, Sub Caste No Bar. Cont: 9442066913

VELLA PILLAI 25 ME (CSE) MNC Chennai, 168 cm Kadagam Poosam seeks suitable Groom. Contact: 8778043772, 9444562345. Email: kannansd@gmail.com

PILLAI (CNB): 26/V.Fair & Beautiful, UG, Diploma in Apparel Tech, Diploma in Graphic Designing, Coimbatore, Elite Family, Seeks groom Business / Abroad – 8925019776

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR 32/MBBS, M.S., (Daughter of Elite Family) Well Settled Family, Seeks Any Doctor. 9444401000

SC ADIDRAVIDA, 34/ B.E. MNC 75, 000pm, (IAS Officer's Daughter) Seeks Groom. Ct: 944440–1000

HINDU TAMIL Yadhava Girl, tall wheatish , B Tech, currently working in Citibank Belfast UK, 93 born Seeks Suitable IT Groom who can relocate to UK. CNB. Ct:73050 10105

HINDU SC(AD) 32 Govt Dr MS(O.G) Rs.75000/pm seeks suitable. Groom 9443158169

VANNIYAR, 29/164, M.E, fair good looking. Expecting well qualified, good looking, settled groom. Pref from IT/ Banking. Ct: 9444171147

GIRL, 33 yrs BE , working in IBM mudaliar caste pure vegetarian family. Contact To : – 9952099600

MUDALIAR /PILLAI 35/154 fair Hastham MCA Uppr Mid Cls Chennai Seeks Prof Quaf Working Groom 8220757159

TAMIL HINDU Girl 38, BE,MBA from Leading Business School, Divorcee, working in MNC Chennai Caste No Bar. Seeks Suitable groom from Professionals. Contact: 94449 15440

SC AD TAMIL 29 Staff Nurse at AIIMS New Delhi Seeks Groom From GOVT/PSU /PVT. Whatsapp BHP to: 9488854998

HINDU NADAR girl, MOB 8/1994, ME, Junior Research Fellow, IIT Kharagpur West Bengal, 168 cms, 65 kg, Wheatish brown, Thiruvathirai, Mithunam with Chevvai Ragu Kaethu, Upper middle class Seeks equally qualified boy, well settled. Ct : 96265 15511

PILLAI 27/165, Fair,Beautiful,MBBS, MS, Govt Hospital,1000000. PA,Affluent Family,CNB.7299576644,7299576666

HINDU MUDALIYAR 26, BE, 170cm, VIP Well to do Seeks Suitable Groom 9710093999 / 8939691888

CHETTIAR (CNB): 30/Good Looking, B.Arch, M.RES (France), PG M.A (IARD) OXFORD Brookes University–London, Leading Architecture Firm in Coimbatore, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Abroad/ Business / Eng – 8939012419

THENGALAI 24/156, Srivatsam, Kettai3, LLB Hons, Bharatnatyam Dancer, Chennai /Bangalore based Lawyer/CA/Group A Service Groom with 4 years difference preferred Contact : 9902869811

LOOKING FOR GROOM
B.E.,MS., (ABROAD SERVICE)
SOZHIA VELLALAR
AGE:28 ARCHITECT
WORKING MNC COMPANY IN BANGALORE.
CONTACT:
93451-21214
NATIVE: TRICHY.

Naidu, 50yrs, +2 Completed, Widow, Seeks Suitable Groom. Good Family Age, Caste No Bar. Ct: 70925 69171.

✔ **Tamil Hindu** Adi Dravida Only daughter. 26/162cm/BA Economics from USA. Currently preparing for UPSC Civil services. Father retired Army Officer, Mother working in PSU at Delhi. Seek suitable alliance. email: bvr310524@gmail.com

HINDU SC Adi-Dravida 27/156 cm B.E MNC 16L PA seeks suitable Allaiance from Govt/ PSU/ IT. Ct: 94441 55781

HINDU SC/AD, 35yrs, 157cm, Sr. Software Engineer. TCS. Seeks Educated well setttled Groom. Ct: 99521 47216.

VANNIYAR 28/168cms, Kettai, MBBS, Medical officer, state govt. seeks suitable professional groom Ct:9884244151

TELUGU

BALIJA/ GAVARA Sadhayam Kumbha, 31/ 5'5, B.E, Fair Good looking Girl for remarriage (Short lived) seeks suitable Groom India/Abroad Caste No Bar. Contact:8056093838/ 9500009694

GROOM REQUIRED for Balija Naidu /Kapu/Telaga 26y, H.160 fair, MBBS, Working Doctor from Hyderabad Seeking Doctor/ Engineer (Local/Abroad). Contact: 0973-36053453 & 9849951874.

NAIDU ISSULESS DIVORCE 1975,Working as Ofcr in TN PSU. Seeks Groom Preferably Chennai, CNB– 8778873501

KAMMA 41 Divorced Ph.D Visakam, Thulam seeks educated groom 7904501004 / 9942363464, vnimavathi@gmail.com

BALIJA NAIDU Ashwini 23/168 B. Tech, M.Tech good looking seeks Professional Qual working in IT, Corporate, Banking sector/Govt ct: 9940224519

BRIDES WANTED

DIVORCEE

TAMILNADU BASED second divorce, groom 1964 born. Curious for an issueless bride, who should be focused and escalate and persist. Ct: 63857 54610.

BOYAR DIVORCEE boy 36 M.Sc (IT) Software Engineer working Australia seeking issueless divorcee/ widow girl. CNB. Ct: 9885359369

SUITABLE MATCH for Hindu IAS 37, 172, Divorced, no child, CNB. PG doctors preferred. Contact 8826377843

HINDU AGAMUDIYAR Mudaliyar aged 29 Chennai well settled Family/ No issues / Need bride / From Same Caste / without issues / Simple marriage Whatsapp – 9841577702 / 9840961251 / vinayakaprinter@gmail.com

DOCTOR

Invite Alliance from Sunni Tamil Muslim Rowther Bride M.B.B.S aged 26/hts.163 cms for Groom M.B.B.S, F.DIAB aged 29 /hts.178 cms well settled with Own Clinc in Kumbakonam Taluk. Phone: 6382715836

MALAYALAM

HINDU NAIR 27/176cm Pooram MBA Deputy Manager HDFC Bank Coimbatore. Salary 5-6 Lak PA. Seeks Educated Working Bride. Ct:8449975810.

MBA / CA / ICWA

GUJARATI BRAHMIN boy CA/CS/ICWA invites alliance from CA, IT, SAP professional bride. Mob: – 8758782911

NRI

NAIDU 28/180, Pooratathi, BTech MS Working & PR of Sweden. Bride willing to go abroad CT 9566682220

PUNJABI

CHENNAI BASED Punjabi Khatri Father Wants Suitable Brides for 2 Sons aged 38 &32,Tall Handsome Educated,well placed.Caste No Bar. 8681094931

TAMIL

TAMIL MUSLIM, 26, M.E., Structural Engineer, Handsome Groom seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 8754666944

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN, 41/170 B.E Software Engineer, Chennai, Never married, Caste No bar. CT–9500188067

HANDSOME, FAIR & Tall Groom 26 years, Christian–R.C., Mech Er, Canada PR. Seeking Christian (R.C./C.S.I.) well–Educated & Employable Professional Bride Willing to Settle in Canada E.Mail:fam.godbless@gmail.com

HINDU 55 Yrs, Mutually Separated, seeks life partner around 45. Middle Class Good Family. Ct 8428080722

VAANIYAR CHETTY– age 37 visagam / 176 / MS (Sweden) working Sweden 60L PA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks (BE / MS / MBA / MCA / CA / Ph.D) Prof. Bride CNB. Ct:9840429799

SMART WELL settled Nadar groom working in IT company, age 30 years height:173 cm complexion: wheatish brown education Qualification: B.E, Income: 12 lakhs/PA seeking for a suitable bride who is educated and career oriented (caste no bar) horoscope optional according to the bride's side, Contacting person: groom's mother. Cell : 9944491730, 9159036165. Mail: rajashanthi15@gmail.com.

TAMIL

DIVORCEE, 38 yrs, Govt Doctor, Hindu Nadar, Education & Economical status no bar, seeking suitable bride, Contact: 9750605329, 9659064307.

DEVANGA 38 B.Arch Self Employed 50000PM CNB Seeks Brides Educated with Job Orphans, Widow, Divorce Without Issue 9962135928 / 9940158383

HINDU NADAR, Sivakasi, Thiruvonam, B.E, 33, Freelance Chess Player & Coach, Doctor Parents, Seeks Suitable Bride. Ct. WhatsApp 9842989884

VELLA PILLAI 31 BE (CS) MNC Chennai 165 cm Kadagam Poosam seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 8870262286, 9894624392 Email: muthuchezhianrmc@gmail.com

HINDU DEVENDIRA kula vellalar M.E. 28/168 Asst. Engg. in PWD seeks suitable bride 8248195168, 8667380725

MUDALIAR 29, BE, MS 180cm, Smart, Working in USA well settled Seeks Bride CNB Ct.8778514465 / 7200866346

MUDALIYAR BE, Chennai 1985 Fair Well Settled,1st Marriage,Bride wanted Emp/Unemploy.9952010118,8610518808

VANNIYAR 33,167 Pooradam Fair BE, MS, Working in Sharjah Co–op Society. Seeks Educated Bride Below 29 Ct:9444154329 arivarsini_2006@yahoo.com

HINDU MUDALIYAR BE, 27, 175cm Income 200000 Seeks Suitable Bride 9710093999 / 8939691888

WIDOWER 69 Hindu Tamil Business Good Health Needs Like Minded Soul Partner 50-60 with Good Health to lead Family 8608813794.

33, AYILYAM, ICWAI,MBA (IIM), Manager, SC, Hindu, Seeks Ragu Kethu Bride, caste no bar Chennai 9677266232

Doctor 25/178, Fair Seeks Suitable Match MBBS / BDS Arcot Mudaliyar Age:20-22. 9940027947 / 9791059529

HINDU NADAR CA/CFA, 27, 170cm, Income 500000/–, Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

MUDALIAR (CNB) 30/180, Handsome, B.E, MS(USA) Business Analyst, Canada, Elite Family, Seeks Bride Good looking & Affluent Family–9840437858

HINDU NAICKER 48yrs/179cms BE, US return, High Net Worth, Clean Habits, First marriage, Vegetarian, seeks Bride. Caste No Bar. Divorcee and Widows excuse. Ct: +917397267754 wedadv09@gmail.com

MUDALIAR GROOM, First Marriage, 45, 5ft 7inch, BE – ECE, Bangalore. 9886493369 , rajdmohan@outlook.com.

SAIVA VELLALA boy, Doctor, 27/ 187, Vegetarian, Uthradom, Kerala; starting PG residency in UK, seeks professionally qualified brides other than doctors. 9446566094, 6238529550

IYER SRIVATSA 45 yrs USA LA / Chennai Capgemini Senior Progam Manager Never Married Veg Seeks Suitable Girl Ct: 8825457700 /+1(818) 9279760

ARCOT MUDALIAR MBA IIM 168/Sep'88 Thiruvadirai(CleanHoroscope) Handsome Fair TEETOTALLER, Bangalore 45L. Seeks Unmarried Qualified Smart Girls. CasteNB. 9940434055, 9742010729

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR 35, BE, 175cm, Income 200000 Divorcee Seeks Suitable Bride KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

59, CLEAN Habits Good Looking Own House Stable Income Seeking Fair Issueless Bride. Ct: 8610446647

MUDALIAR 28/172,HANDSOME, MBBS, MD, Govt Hospital, 1200000. PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

HINDU NADAR 26, 180cm, Income 20000, Working in Bangalore Seeks Suitable Bride 9380791999

CHETTIYAR, 24MANAI, MBA, 47, 5.4ft, well settled, young looking divorcee/no kids, worked with all major Telecoms as Sr.Manager, now owns mid size Internet solutions Pvt Ltd. company with TRAI's Cat–C license, 30lacs p.a., own villa, seeks bride below 42, unmarried, divorcee,widow, Caste no bar, Mob: 6379257390

DIVORCEE, TAMIL Yadava, 37, Senior Manager, 27L/yr Seeks Girl from Decent Family Caste no bar.8667627813

SMARTHA BRAHMIN Telugu Bachelor 45/ 175 Koundinya Chithirai, B.Tech M.E, Sr DGM, Seeks Brahmin Bride, Ct. lsbalaji94@yahoo.com, 9445006191

THENGALAI IYENGAR, Srivatsa Gothram, Maham, 32, employed in MNC seeks suitable bride. Contact 7010171249.

BRAHMIN 70 seperated matured author well settled looking for a friendly soulmate widow above 50 travel ready. 8220822951

SEEKING SIMPLE, Clean Habits,Vegetarian Bride willing to be Homemaker for our Son Ms(CS) USA,28yrs/ 178cms,Iyer,Vegetarian & Clean Habits.Financial Status of the Bride does not matter.Ct. WhatsApp:+1 732 372–8410

✔ **BRIDE WELL** qualified, unmarried, between 29 and 32 for well settled unmarried PG Engineer Entrepreneur, Vadama, Tamil Iyer, Bharadwaja , Punarpoosam, 34, living in Bangalore. Genuinely interested parents may write to – gojaarha@gmail.com

ALLIANCE FROM unmarried Iyer girls for bachelor 57 own business traditional teetotaller Iyer. 9447496006

BRAHMIN IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc(MCA)MNC, IT 24Lakh PA Seeks unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

BRIDE WANTED
HINDU MUDALIYAR
AGE : 26 , B.E , OWN BUSINESS ,WELL SETTLED RICH , WELL TO DO SEEKS SUITABLE BRIDE
9710093999 /8939691888

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Parents seeks Fair, Tall Bride Preferably MS/ Working in USA for their second son B.E MS, in USA 28/177Cms H1B,well Settled and working in USA Contact: 98404 65657.

IYENGAR VADAKALAI, Bharadwaja Gotra, Nov 1991, 5'11, B. Tech Nit, 36 Lpa, Mnc @ Bangalore, Seeks Brahmin Bride, Never Married, Age 23 To 29, Contact: matrivr23@gmail.com

TAMIL

✔ **VELLALA KOUNDER/** Magaram/ Thiruvonam/ 39/ 5.5" / Dip.in Mechanical/ Service Manager/ Pvt. Ltd/ 70000p.m. Seeks suitable Bride. Ct: Suryakumar # 5/1, 15th Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Ch–83. Ph:9444395006 Brokers Excuse

MTech Software Developer at MNC Delhi, Chitirai/Bharadwaj/ 5ft11" seeks Tamil Iyengar Brides Preferably Doctors/Engineers. Ct: 9300502792

ASSISTANT Professor, Chennai M.E 31/ 164cm, Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee, No Issue. Naidu/ Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Chettiar Preferred Ct: 94430 52596/ 94456 89306

TELUGU

KSHATRIYA RAJU (Telgu) Groom Doctor MD Radiology (16 sept 1993) Chennai, Same community bride with PG preferred. Contact: 9500198706.

BALIJA NAIDU, Rishabam, Rohini, 30/ 167, B.TECH (Business Manufacturer And Trader) Fair Seeks Well Settled Educated & Good Family. Naidu Bride in Chennai 9790963402

HINDU BALIJA Naidu Divorcee 45yrs, 5 feet 7 inches Height, Professional, Coimbatore seeks 35 - 39 yrs Educated & Issueless Girl Ct: 9842468559

TELUGU SPEAKING hindu (Rohini),B.com (fair and good looking) 38 / 178 ,working in Amazon seeks graduate and fair looking bride with good values. Please email or WhatsApp your horoscope, photos and bio data to coonauma@gmail.com 9886679920

NAIDU, BALIJA Boy 30, Star Ashwini, B.Tech, 171cm working with Multinational Co, well settled, from affluent family seeks good looking, Qualified, working Girl with family values. Sub Sects No Bar Ct:9840234571

BRIDE WANTED
Elite Kamma Naidu Family Located in Chennai, Seeks Alliance for their only Son 02 / 08 / 1999, 5.8, Meenam Uthirattathi,Fair,B.com,MBA with Good Networth. Seeks Alliance from any Naidu Family only (Sub sect ok)
0-98410 71701

BALIJA NAIDU Lawyer 45yrs, Looking for suitable Telegu Speaking Bride. Subsect No Bar. Contact:94440 48537

REDDY 41yrs, unmarried rich boy M.E working in MNC Currently-USA seeks Prof.workg girl age 33-36. 9677071874

URDU

AGE 45,GOOD Looking Buisnesman Seeks Bride Life Partner (Ist Marriage,Widow& Divorce)No Demand 9884550603

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

REDDIYAR GROOM 51 Australia PR Divorcee and Bride 47 MBA looking for suitable Bride and groom Ct:whatsapp no +61 435 496 817

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

PANDARAM, 30, 165 cms, Businessman, BE. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match from same community. Contact: 6366448343

VANNIA KULA KSHATRIYA, 25, 157 cms, Doctor, BDS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 28, 173 cms, Orthopedic, MD/ MS. Lives in Salem. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 28, 168 cms, employed, MS. Lives in Canada. Father is an Employed. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

MADHWA BRAHMIN, 28, 183 cms, Employed, BE. Lives in Chennai. Belongs to an affluent business family with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match from same community. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 28, 165 cms, Marketing Professional, MBA. Lives in Japan. Father is a retired person in Pvt Company. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 27, 157 cms, Entrepreneur, B.Tech. Lives in Trichy. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match from similar community. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 28, 168 cms, Data Scientist, BE & MBA. Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

LINGAYATH, 27, 173 cms, Post Graduate, from a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth, looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366448346

CHRISTIAN, 34, 163 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Vellore. Father is a retired person. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448343

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

DOCTOR

DM DOCTOR, Catholic 34,173, Asst Prof in Chennai, seeks suitable Doctor/Civil Services/ CA bride.Ph 8122083188

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 40 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

KERALA SUNNI Muslim widower handsome 55/ 170 MBA Financial sound buisness seeks beautiful remarriage woman age 28 to 45. Ct: 7306623451

TAMIL

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN parents (College Professors) seek born again and God fearing bride, preferably working in USA for their son B.E, M.S (USA) 27/172, working in USA, H1B. Caste no bar. Contact – 81227 85230

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Innocent Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230

CSI CHRISTIAN NADAR, Chennai settled 36yrs/165cms, B.E., working in MNC. Innocent Divorcee seeks same caste working or qualified Bride. Ct: 94434 82782

TAMIL

CHETTIAR (CNB) 31 Moolam star, Civil Engg, Coimbatore. Rich and Affluent family. Very fair and good looking only son seeks bride from decent family 9894657750

A WELL settled Healthy Hindu 57, Separated Seeks Elite Independent Lady as life partner & Soulmate Caste Nobar 7397087032 mducbe18@gmail.com

HINDU MUDALIYAR 25 BE 178cm Working in Netherland Inc–10Lacs well settled Rich 9710093999 / 8939691888

BRIDE WANTED for an Army Officer, Saiva Pillai, Age 32 years. Rasi: Kadakam. Star: Ayilyam. Contact No: 82487 00585

TELUGU

HINDU, Specialist Doctor MBBS, MS. Reddy 32 Y/165cm Fair, slim. From Affluent family settled in Chennai. Seeks well educated Groom from Similar Background. Professional/ Business/ Entrepreneur. CNB. 8925640111

VERY RICH, Kamma, 94 born tall, slim, fair & Beautiful Girl, International MBA with mild defect in hearing Seeks rich educated Kamma Ggroom well settled in Chennai. 7305010105

REDDY 38/165 fair ME Divorcee No child Affluent Emp Non–IT Chennai seeks groom below 43yrs CNB 9884635286

wanted elite groom
Hindu Naidu Girl, 25yrs, 160cm, Slim, Fair, M.E, doing MBA in Chennai Looking from Affluent Family Preferably in India, with good values.
Ct: 93667 50524

TELUGU

VISWAKARMA, 29 /162cm Working in TNEB, Assistant Engineer Rs. 60K pm seeks suitable Groom Ph: 9841211033

✔ **TELUGU BRAHMIN** Girl 1984/BTech/ Employed. Need professional, unmarried, any Brahmin Boy in India or USA. Ph: 9791111321/9445623800.

Seeking Groom Hindu Religion for 81 born Postgraduate, Employed in Infosys, caste no bar, Ct: 9502860817

Telugu Bestha Naidu Bride age 31 years Height 163 permanent job as Assistant Professor working in Delhi from well to do family seeks suitable Bridegroom from decent family. CASTE NO BAR send Bio-data with photo to her father's WhatsApp No.9440109317 / 9391031354.

URDU

SUNNI URDU 24Y 5'5" Hajjah fashion designer looking for a pious handsome employed boy <28 from a good - family in TN. WhatsApp bio–data & - photos 9884918595

URUDU MUSLIM Chennai, Reputed Business Family looking Groom for 31yrs 5ft 6 inch B.E, M.s, Girl working in Amazon, San Francisco, Salary 8Lakhs per month, now in Chennai Call or Wats app: 9884141181

GENERAL

ASTROLOGY

RUDRAKSH REMEDY (since1518): Kundli, Job, Vastu, Luv, Grah. 40 yrs exp Global Astro- 9896304000

POULTRY

POULTRY FARM equipment for sale. Incubator 4KW 16800 egg per day–22 No's, Cutting machine 2000 per hour, weekly hatchery100000, Fully automatic layer farm 12000/day – 8 No's. Ct – 9940064858 / 9042017942

WATER PROOFING

WE-FIX: Leaking Roof, Tank, Sump, Bathroom, Skylight, House Painting, Tiling, Carpentry, Epoxy, Civil Works. 9448572697

RENTAL

GENERAL

MYSORE SIDDHARTHNAGAR Pin No. 570011 (Near DFRL, DRDO), 2BHK Flat, GF–1250 Sqft,1 Car park. Rent: 22K. Visit (Sunday 11am–1pm, Call: 9871671849). Brokers excuse.

SITUATIONS VACANT

GENERAL

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- Digital Content Creator
- Data Analyst
- Broadcasting Engineer
- Distribution Manager
- IT Head
- IT Executives
- Accountant
- Accounts Executive
- Admin Executive
- Receptionist
- Secretary

Apply to : hr2023mmm@gmail.com

GENERAL

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THE HINDU

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In ruins: A child looks at damaged homes and buildings in south Khartoum. REUTERS

Signs of unrest: Protesters march during a rally marking the anniversary of the April uprising, in Khartoum, on April 6, before the infighting between two forces took over the city. REUTERS

For safer shores: The first batch of stranded Indians leaving Sudan under Operation Kaveri on April 25. *INS Sumedha* with 278 people aboard departed from Port Sudan for Jeddah. ANI

Unplanned journey: Indians being evacuated in a C-130 J aircraft by the Indian Air Force from Port Sudan under Operation Kaveri. @IAF_MCC

Sigh of relief: Families after a safe landing at the Chennai international airport through a special flight under Operation Kaveri. ANI

In good hands: A Navy man holding an infant as stranded Indians board *INS Teg*, at Port Sudan, on April 27. ANI

SUNDAY
April 30, 2023
BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
32 Pages ₹ 8.00

THE HINDU
ON SUNDAY
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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Youth killed over trivial row

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A youth was bludgeoned to death allegedly by five men over a trivial row in Chikkabanavara in the wee hours of Saturday.

The deceased has been identified as Arun Kumar, 22, a resident of Madanayakanahalli. He worked at a tent house in Soladevanahalli. On Saturday, he was in Chikkabanavara along with his friend, a burglar with several criminal cases against him. The duo reportedly got into a bitter tiff with five other youths over parking of vehicles. As the issue got out of hand, one of the five allegedly hit him with a rock on his head and bludgeoned him to death. Arun's friend and the gang of five fled from the scene leaving Arun lying dead, the police said. The accused have been identified as workers of an event management company based out of Madanayakanahalli. The police are on the lookout for the accused.

Leopard rescued from house

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Forest Department officials rescued a leopard stuck inside a toilet of a house at Kuppe village in Sorab taluk on Saturday. The animal has been sent to a rescue centre.

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Vote bank politics that exploits communities

BJP Double Engine Sarkara
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4. Justice for Other Backward Communities - Increased reservation for Agricultural Communities (Vokkaligas and Veerashaiva Lingayats) by 4%
5. System of fair reservation for deserving minorities by giving reservation to economically backward classes
6. 75 units of free electricity to 39 lakh poor families per month
7. SCSP and TSP funds More than ₹1 Lakh Crore allocated for the welfare of SC, ST Communities
8. Land Ownership Scheme Subsidy for land purchase increased from ₹15 Lakhs to more than ₹20 Lakhs for people belonging to SC and ST Communities

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ಡಬಲ್ ಎಂಜಿನ್ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಸಾಕಾರ
ಕಮಲದ ಬಟನ್ ಒತ್ತಿ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಗೆಲ್ಲಿಸಿ
ಈ ಬಾರಿಯ ನಿರ್ಧಾರ ಬಹುಮತದ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

Issued by: Bharatiya Janata Party Karnataka

VOTE WITHOUT FAIL

10 MAY 2023 WEDNESDAY
7 AM - 6 PM

KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS - 2023
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FLAG HOISTING OF FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY
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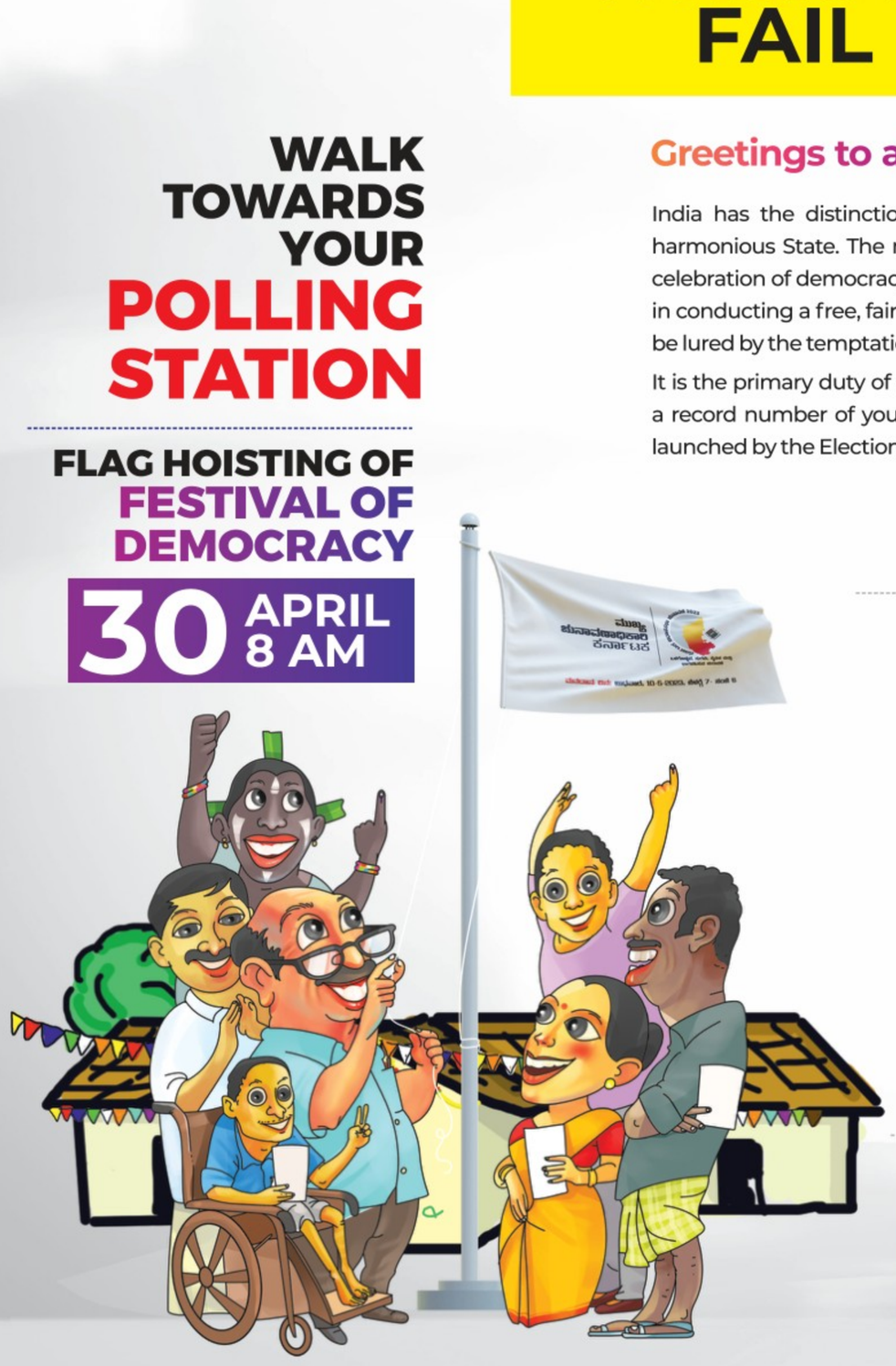

Greetings to all the voters,

India has the distinction of being the world's largest democracy and Karnataka has the reputation of being the most peaceful and harmonious State. The main objective of democracy is **"of the people, by the people, for the people."** Everyone should participate in this celebration of democracy and make a valuable contribution to the building of the nation. People should join hands with Election Commission in conducting a free, fair and peaceful election. I appeal to the people that everyone should participate by voting in an ethical manner and not be lured by the temptation of caste and religious considerations and make the present elections a success.

It is the primary duty of every citizen to vote. Every citizen should be aware of the value of their vote and participate in voting. In this election a record number of youth voters have registered their names in the voting list. For the benefit of the voters a number of Apps have been launched by the Election Commission besides Helpline 1950 which is functional. I therefore request everyone to make use of these Apps.

Yours
Manoj Kumar Meena, IAS
Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka

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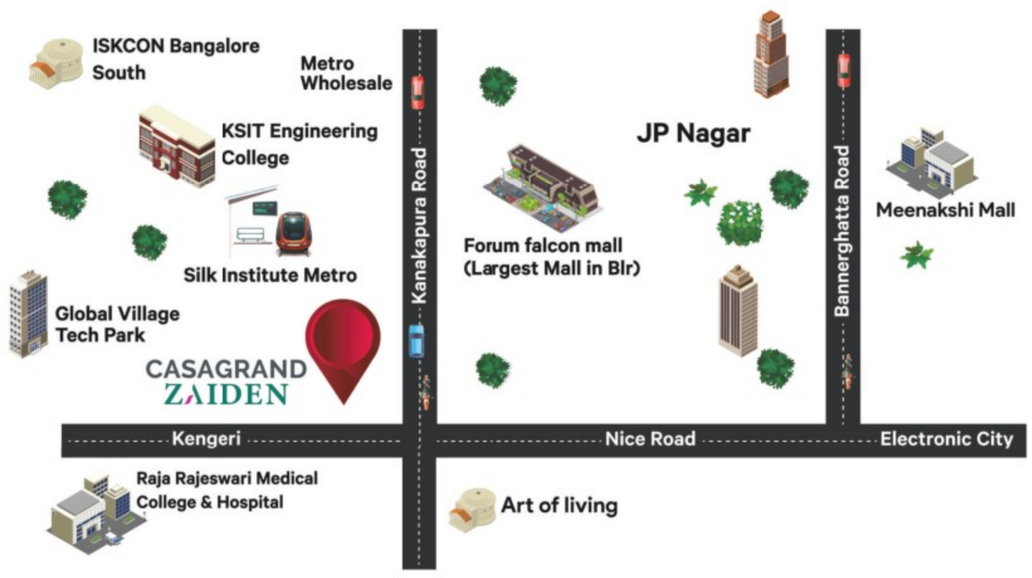

INDOOR AMENITIES

1. Reception lounge
2. Multipurpose party hall
3. AV Room
4. Business center
5. Convenience store
6. Outdoor cafeteria
7. Gym
8. Cross fit corner
9. Boxing corner
10. Kids play area
11. Indoor games room
12. Board games corner
13. Video games corner
14. Adventure wall
15. Kids ball pool
16. Association room
17. Laundry / Ironing shop
18. Drivers / Maid dormitory
19. Drivers / Maid Toilet

OUTDOOR AMENITIES

20. Drop-off Plaza
21. Amphitheatre
22. Swimming pool
23. Kids pool
24. Waterfall feature
25. Water play jets
26. Pool side lounges
27. Half - Basketball court
28. Cricket practice net
29. Futsal lawn
30. Outdoor gym
31. Outdoor kids play area
32. Kids rock climbing
33. Bicycle racks with bicycles
34. Cycling track
35. Jogging track
36. Skating rink
37. Senior citizen court
38. Meditation lawn
39. Party deck
40. Barbeque corner
41. Hobby court
42. Interactive floor games
43. Play mounds
44. Inground Trampoline
45. Sandpit
46. Pets park
47. Aroma garden
48. Spillover party lawn
49. Shaded patio seating
50. Interactive water fountain
51. Plumeria court
52. Hammock garden
53. Leisure seating court
54. Reflexology walkway
55. Tot lot
56. Jungle gym
57. Golf putting
58. Seating pavilion
59. Zen garden
60. Community farming
61. Sculpture court
62. Informal seating area
63. Outdoor board games nook
64. Electric car charging bay
65. Car wash bay
66. Air filling station

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Student stabbed to death during college fest in city

Another student suffers injuries; deceased has been identified as Bhaskar Jetty, a Mechanical Engineering student from Gujarat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An engineering student was stabbed to death and another student suffered injuries during a fight between two groups of students on the premises of Reva University, a private university near Bagalur, North Bengaluru, on Friday night.

The deceased has been identified as Bhaskar Jetty, 22, a fourth year Mechanical Engineering student hailing from Gujarat.

The incident occurred during the annual college fest that was celebrated on Friday.

He was stabbed in his chest by a group of students, the police said. Though he was immediately taken to a nearby private hospital, he succumbed to his injuries later in the night. Another student Sharath was also injured in the head during the scuffle and is being treated at a private hospital. He is said to be out of danger. He was hit by an iron rod on the head, the police said.

The police said according to preliminary information from the college authorities and students, a scuffle broke out between two groups of students around 9.45 p.m. over a trivial issue and a group of students, said to be three in number, attacked Bhaskar and Sharath. Sources said that the two groups of students had an altercation earlier in the day too and this was probably the second time they clashed.

A senior police official said that they were yet to ascertain a clear sequence of events of what happened and who all were involved in the incident. "The injured student also did not help us piece together the details of the incident clearly. We are analysing CCTV footage from the premises," said an official. However, a senior official claimed that there was no footage of the actual attack and incident.

"We are yet to nab the assailants who stabbed him. Investigation is on," said Laxmi Prasad, DCP (North East).

The police said the deceased student had a guardian in Mathikere and parents in Gujarat, both of whom have been informed. Autopsy was conducted on the body and handed over to his parents on Saturday evening, the police said.

Second such incident sends shockwaves across institutions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Just a few months after a student's murder on the premises of Presidency University, a similar incident at another university in North Bengaluru, Reva University, has sent shockwaves across education institutions in the city.

An engineering student was stabbed to death on the campus. The safety aspects at educational institutions have come under the scanner now.

After the incident at Presidency University, several institutions had taken up measures to amp up the security systems at their college. From metal detectors, QR codes for fest entries, strict vigilance of ID cards to counselling and sensitisation sessions for students, universities were trying to make the best use of their resources without creating an atmosphere of panic on campus.

Following Friday's incident, college managements emphasised that it

After the incident at Presidency varsity, several institutions had taken up measures to up the security systems at their college

was important to conduct fests or any other events only during the day time to avoid such clashes in the night hours.

"In our college, it is a rule that students should vacate the premises after 6 p.m.," a private college official said.

"One of the important things to do during these fests is to screen the participants and invite them only from established institutions. They should also be made to wear ID cards so that they can be identified. It is essential to have security around when there are more people. Of course, fests are usually conducted on trust and if one student misbehaves, then it is difficult to do much," said Anil Joseph Pinto, Registrar, Christ University.

High Court directs KPSC and government to redo selection list for post of drug inspector

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that the State government has no power under the Drugs and Cosmetics (D&C) Act, 1940, to prescribe additional qualification for selecting candidates to the posts of drug inspector, the High Court of Karnataka has directed the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) to redo the selection list for the post by omitting the additional qualification.

"Imposing the qualification of experience in addition to the qualification prescribed in the Act is unconstitutional as it is contrary to the Section 33N of the D&C Act and the Rule 49 of the D&C Rules, 1945," the court observed.

A Division Bench comprising Justice G. Narendar and Justice Shivashankar Amarannavar passed the order while partly allowing the petitions filed by Harsha N. and several other aspirants to the posts of drug inspector.

The applications for the post were invited in 2018 through the KPSC. However, the State government changed the eligibility criteria by prescribing the 'experience of minimum 18 months in the manufacturing and or testing of Schedule C and/or C1 drugs' during the midst of selection when the process of verification and interviewing some of the candidates were already completed.

Apart from contending that the State government had no power to prescribe additional qualification other than the one prescribed by the Central government through the D&C Act and the Rules, the petitioners had alleged that tweaking of qualification was done only to accommodate in-service candidates as 25 of the 58 candidates in the select list are all candidates serving in the department.

Agreeing to their contention, the Bench said the provisions of the D&C Act leaves no doubt in the mind of the court that the field of legislation is occupied by the central legislation and that the State stands denuded of any authority to legislate with regard to the same, and hence prescribing additional qualification in the form of experience is contrary to the provisions of the Act.

"It is seen that after the process of verification and interview had commenced, the government have deemed it necessary to alter the method of evaluation, and invitation to officers of the Central government to evaluate the testimonials is nothing but a mere ruse to cover up their tracks for altering the rules of the game, after the game has begun," the Bench observed.

Tunnel Boring Machine finally achieves breakthrough after being stuck for 6 months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) Rudra, which was stuck after encountering a huge pile of garbage 33 feet below the surface, finally made a breakthrough on Friday. The machine, which burrowed a distance of 745 metres from the Dairy Circle Station to Lakkasandra took 398 days to complete the task.

Prior to tunnelling this stretch, the machine was deployed between South Ramp and Dairy Circle Station to drill a distance of 613 metres.

Rudra is one among the nine TBMs that were deployed by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) to build a tunnel network between Dairy Circle and Nagawara. The line is part of the Pink Line between Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara being constructed under phase II of the Namma Metro project.

Tunnel Boring Machine Rudra achieves breakthrough at Lakkasandra on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Last year, in September, the machine faced unusual hurdles. The cutter head of the machine could not move after encountering a huge garbage pile.

Later, officials found out that in the 1980s, the area where the machine was stuck used to be a quarry land turned into a landfill. The BMRCL had built a concrete block to facilitate the machine to continue the work and, as a precautionary measure, evacuated several structures.

Sources in BMRCL said TBM Rudra would continue tunnelling towards Langford Metro station.

Bengaluru students shine in JEE Mains 2023

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Testing Agency (NTA) on Saturday released the results for the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains 2023 and with an All-India Ranking (AIR) of 22, Tanish S. Khurana has emerged as the State topper.

With an AIR of 23, Ridhi Maheshwari has secured the top rank in the girls' category in Karnataka. B. Shashank has secured AIR 2 in the Person with Disabilities (PwD) category.

Ridhi Maheshwari

Tanish S. Khurana

B. Shashank

Tanish, a student of Sriram Global School, said, "I was enrolled at an institute for JEE coaching from the 11th grade itself. I was expecting a good rank but did not expect to be the State topper. I would now like to pursue computer science engineering at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay."

Shashank, a student of Narayana Group CO-Kaveri Bhavan, also has similar plans for his future. "I was sort of expecting a top rank. I am feeling happy now. For now, I have been preparing for JEE advanced. After that, I would like to go to IIT Bombay and do the computer science engineering course," he said.

Woman and daughter found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A mother and daughter were found dead at their residence in Muneshwaranagar, Bandepalya, on Friday evening. While the daughter is suspected to have committed suicide, her mother was lying dead on the bed and what led to her death is yet to be ascertained. The deceased have been identified as Zarina Taj, 55, and her daughter Raziya Sultana, 31.

Raziya Sultana was working at a call centre and hadn't been to work for the past three days and hadn't been answering calls, prompting one of her colleagues to visit her house to check on her on Friday evening. Her flat was locked from inside and a foul smell was emanating. The colleague immediately informed the police, who broke open the door and found the mother and daughter dead. Their bodies were in a highly decomposed state, indicating it had been at least three days since they had died.

Police suspect that Raziya Sultana may have killed her mother and ended her life, or both of them died in a suicide pact.

Police suspect that marital dispute may have led Raziya Sultana to take the extreme step.

(Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya sahaya vani ph. 104 for help)

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Tender Notice

Sealed Tenders are invited for **Provision of Tilling work at first floor of Adm Block of APS ASC C & C**. Call for Quotations (also uploaded on website for reference) to be collected from school office after submission of DD in favour of APS ASC Centre & College for ₹ 100/- from **01 May 2023 to 06 May 2023** (1000hrs to 1300hrs).Last date to submit filled tender form is **08 May 2023** at 1130 AM.

Presiding Officer
For School Management

IN THE COURT OF THE
X ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU
P & SC No.269/2023
CCH-26 HG: 28/6/2023

Petitioner
NIL
1.Mrs. Theresia Setlur
Wife of late Krishnan Rangaswamy Setlur
Aged about 77 years,
Permanently residing at Friedrich-Stoltze-Strasse 80,65824 Schwalbach am Taunus, Germany
Now at C/o Srihari, No 24 17th cross, Malleswaram Bengaluru - 560 055.

V/S

Respondent
2.Miss. Jayathi Sabrina Setlur
Daughter of late Krishnan Rangaswamy Setlur
Aged about 49 years
Represented by her mother & Power of Attorney holder
Mrs. Theresia Setlur
Permanently residing at Friedrich-Stoltze-Strasse 80,65824 Schwalbach am Taunus, Germany
Now at C/o Srihari, No 24 17th cross, Malleswaram Bengaluru - 560 055.
3.Miss. Yvonne Setlur
Daughter of late Krishnan Rangaswamy Setlur
Aged about 45 years
Represented by her mother & Power of Attorney holder
Mrs. Theresia Setlur
Permanently residing at Eckenheimer Landstrasse 34260435 Frankfurt am Main Germany Now at C/o Srihari, No 24 17th cross, Malleswaram Bengaluru - 560 055.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the above-named Petitioner No.1 and Petitioner No.2 and 3 Represented by Petitioner no.1 i.e., her mother & Power of Attorney holder Mrs. Theresia Setlur have made Petitioner to this Court Under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act for grant of Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners to the estate left behind by the husband of Petitioner No.1 and father of Petitioner No.2 & 3 as per the schedule mentioned below. The below mentioned schedule was held by Late Sri. Krishnan Rangaswamy Setlur, husband of Petitioner No.1 & father of Petitioner No.2 & 3 who expired on 14.03.2022. Interested Parties are hereby called upon to appear before CCH 26 City Civil and Sessions Judge Bengaluru in person or by pleader on 28.06.2023 at 11 AM to file objection if any. Failure to appear in the matter, the matter will be heard and disposed ex-parte.

SCHEDULE
LIST OF MUTUAL FUNDS INVESTED BY
LATE SRI. KRISHNAN RANGASWAMY SETLUR

Sl. No	Folio No	Fund Name	INV. Amt
1.	22510633	Franklin India US Opp fund	8,00,000
2.	22452012	Franklin India US Opp fund	50,000
3.	91091393375	Axis Blue Chip	8,00,000
4.	91083142766	Axis Blue Chip	75,000
5.	15674071/89	ICICI Blue Chip	8,00,000
6.	15260525/97	ICICI Blue Chip	60,000
7.	91084145563	Axis focus 25	50,000
8.	91089839012	Axis focus 25	8,25,000
9.	79928709833	Mirae Large Cap	50,000
		Total =	35,10,000

SHARES HELD BY SRI. KRISHNAN RANGASWAMY SETLUR
AUTHORIZED UNDER THE STOCK HOLDING CORPORATION OF INDIA

Sl. No	Folio No	Fund Name	INV. Amt
1.	001209	Bank of India (900 shares) With (Stock Holding Corporation of India) DP ID: IN301135 Client ID: 26792848	40,500

Given under my hand and signature under the seal of this Hon'ble Court on this 25.04.2023

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar
City Civil and Sessions Judge
Bengaluru-560 009

Advocate for Petitioners
RAVI, SUNITA & SURI
Advocates
"Swathi", No. 123, 6th Main
Between 12th & 13th Cross
Malleswaram, Bengaluru - 560 003

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of the General Public, that **RAGHU T.M** aged about 38 years, s/o. Muniyappa T.C, R/at: No. 56, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, 3rd Block, Near Ganesh Temple, Ayyappanagar, K.R. Puram, BANGALORE – 560 036 & **NARASIMHA N** aged about 39 years, s/o. Late Narayana R/at: No. 8, 1st Cross, Rajarajeshwari Layout Opp. to Petrol Bunk Road, Ayyappanagar, K.R. Puram, BANGALORE – 560 049, are the full & absolute owners of the Property bearing Site No. 2, **Khatha No. 486/B Property No. 50/1,** situated at **Kodigehalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore,** which is morefully described in the schedule below, having purchased from previous owner/D.N. Ranjith under Sale Deed dated 18/06/2020 registered as Document No. MDP-1-00894/2020-21 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. MDPD 616 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Mahadevapura, Bangalore.

It is further notified to the General Public that earlier Deed/s with respect to schedule property viz., Deed of Absolute Sale dated 10/11/2003 executed by R. Raju & others in favour of J. Poornima registered as Document No. 15526/2003-04 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. 115 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore was lost/missing. A Police complaint in this regard was also lodged with Jurisdictional Police/Bangalore City vide Lost Report No. 0541032/2023 dated 21/04/2023. It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or find the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below mentioned address & they will be compensated accordingly.

It is also notified that G CHANUKYA and BHAVYA K.C., Resident of /at: No. 1-1, Tellagundlapalle, Pantrampalle, Patnam Chittor, Andhra Pradesh – 517 131 are intending to avail loan from LIC Housing Finance Ltd., to purchase the schedule property from present owner/s/Raghu T.M & Narasimha N.

The General Public are hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s on the basis of the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk & cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against Raghu T N & Narasimha N nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of property bearing **Site No. 2,** Katha No. 486/B Property No. 50/1, situated at **Kodigehalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore** (now within the jurisdiction of BBMP, Bangalore) measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 30 feet in all **1200 square feet** & bounded on:-

East by : Road; West by : Site No. 1; North by : Road & South by: Site No. 3.

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocates,
312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross,
VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.

Hg: 31.05.2023
BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 1
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru-560 001
O.A. No. 736/2021
BETWEEN
DENA BANK NOW BANK OF BARODA
A body corporate, constituted under the Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer) Act, 1970 Having its Head Office
At Mondvi, Baroda in Gujarat State.
And a Branch at Patrenahalli, Chikkaballapura Taluk & District
Represented by its Senior Manager
IFSC: BKDN0610294
PAN: AAACB1534F
Mobile: 9152940294
Mail ID: DBPATR@bankofbaroda.co.in
....Applicant
AND
Mr. Ashwath Kumar M.N. & 3 Others
.... Defendants

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(Viii) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEEDURE) RULES 1993 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

DEFENDANT No. 3 & D4 (c)
3. MR. MANJUNATHA
S/o Muniyappa
Aged about 41 years
Residing at Hosahudya,
Keshawara Post, Nandi Hobli
Chikkaballapura Taluk & District 562102
D4 (c). Sir. Lokesh
S/o Late Marappa
Major in age
Residing at Hosahudya,
Keshawara Post, Nandi Hobli
Chikkaballapura Taluk & District 562102

Whereas, the Applicant Has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the Defendants for recovery of sum of **Rs. 23,00,758.71** (Rupees Twenty three lakhs seven and fifty eight and paise seventy one only) together with cost and other reliefs.

The above mentioned Defendant No.3 and LR's of D4(c) required to appear before the Tribunal in person or through on 31.05.2023 at 10.30 am (forenoon) as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand the seal of this tribunal on this 18th Day of May 2023.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL
Sd/-
REGISTRAR
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1
BANGALORE 560 001

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DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM
GOVERNMENT OF UTTAR PRADESH
PARYATAN BHAWAN, C-13, VIPIN KHAND, GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW– 226010, UTTAR PRADESH (INDIA)

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DoT reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof. For any queries, please respond on **email: publicity.uptourism@gmail.com.** All subsequent notifications, changes and amendments will be posted only on the **website http://etender.up.nic.in.** DoT reserves the right to cancel this invitation and /or invite fresh Bid with or without amendments to this invitation, without liability or any obligation.

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Pharm.D. (Post Baccalaureate)
M.Sc. Nursing
M.Sc. Nursing (Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care)
M. Phil. – Clinical Psychology
M.Sc. (Audiology)
M.Sc. (Speech-Language Pathology)

* Through All India Entrance Examination

Group: PG – B **

M.Sc. (Medical Anatomy)
M.Sc. (Medical Physiology)
M.Sc. (Medical Biochemistry)
M.Sc. (Medical Microbiology and Applied Molecular Biology)
M.Sc. (Medical Laboratory Technology)
M.Sc. (Neuroscience)
M.Sc. (Medical Imaging Technology)
M.Sc. (Renal Sciences & Dialysis Technology)
M.Sc. (Urology Technology)
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Date of Examination/ Interview	2nd July, 2023(Sunday)	12th July, 2023 (Wednesday) & 13th July, 2023(Thursday)
Centre for Examination/ Interview	SRI RAMACHANDRA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (Category - I Deemed to be University) Porur, Chennai	

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Registrar

Drinking water remains a critical issue, but seems to have little impact on polls

Work on Cauvery Stage V that will provide piped drinking water to 110 villages was expected to be completed before the polls but is still under way

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

As no political party or candidate offers a radically different agenda on drinking water, it doesn't seem to figure high on the minds of voters while deciding whom to vote for. SUDHAKARA JAIN

FOCUS BENGALURU

Contrary to popular perception, drinking water shortage continues to be a serious crisis in the city, especially in the outer zones and several densely populated lower-income group pockets even within the core city area.

However, as no political party or candidate offer a radically different agenda on drinking water, it doesn't seem to figure high on the minds of voters while deciding whom to vote for.

Work on the Cauvery Stage V that will provide piped drinking water to 110 villages in the city's outer zones, newly added to the city in 2007, was expected to be completed before the Assembly polls. But the work is still under way, disappointing incumbent MLAs of these areas who had hoped to benefit by providing water before elections.

Luckily for the MLAs, two years of good rains and lake rejuvenation efforts have improved the groundwater levels in the city, providing succour during this year's ongoing scorching summer.

But drinking water continues to be one of the main demands of voters in several outer-zone Assembly constituencies like Yelahanka, Byatarayanapura, Bommanahalli, Mahadevapura, Yeshwantpur, Bengaluru South and R.R. Nagar. However, it is seen as a pan-city issue, with an individual MLA able to do little to help.

"We have been waiting for piped drinking water for almost a decade now. Works are under way, and we will get water soon. We tried pressuring the MLA to get it early, but it seems he can do little. What we expect him to ensure is that the roads dug up for the works are re-laid immediately," said Ram Swaroop, a resident of Mahadevapura.

Free tanker water

Many incumbent MLAs and aspirants are providing "free tanker water" to several lower-income group-dominated pockets in the outer zones. Multiple residents said this was a common practice every year. However, the number of people organising it this year has definitely increased.

Water scarcity is not limited to outer zones alone. There seems to be a class division in water availability in the city. Many of the lower-income demography-dominated pockets in the core city complain of water scarcity. However, this is not a function of class bias but a function of population density, multiple former councillors in the city told *The Hindu*.

"For instance, some pockets of Prakashnagar have become densely populated in recent years. For instance, in one 30x40 site, people build two, four or five-storey buildings, which end up housing nearly 50 people. This puts enormous strain on all civic infrastructure like a heavy load on sewage pipelines, lack of parking space, and water supply to the area that was sufficient a few years ago is no longer enough," explained G. Padmavathi, former mayor and councillor from Prakashnagar.

For the record, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) maintains that it draws 1,450 MLD of water from Cauvery every day, and Cauvery V Stage will draw an extra 770 MLD after its completion, totalling 2,220 MLD, which the Board maintains is sufficient for the city.

However, senior BWSSB officials also told *The Hindu* that it was common for MLAs to request the Board officials to provide water for a longer duration and even more even in quantum to certain pockets, which usually are dominated by lower-income demography, indicating the quantum allotted to the area by the Board was evidently not enough these days.

Groundwater resources

Water conservationist S. Vishwanath said water scarcity was not a pan-city problem but more localised in pockets within the core city and often resolved by local politicians. However, councillors argue that they find it tough to find water for such increasingly densely populated pockets and that the ground reality of the burgeoning city shows that it needs more water than it presently gets.

In the absence of allocation of more water, people are forced to exploit groundwater through borewells, which are capital intensive. "Almost every second house has a borewell here, and the underground water table is overexploited. Even if we dig nearly 900 feet, it's tough to find water," said Ms. Padmavathi. In many cases, people are also forced to pay for tanker water. Given that this is the situation in mostly densely populated areas where people with lower incomes stay, it affects their lives disproportionately.

However, till date, no party or candidates have been able to make water into a decisive electoral issue. Neither is any incumbent MLA severely affected by the problem.

THE HINDU
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INBRIEF

Kristu Jayanthi College celebrates annual day

Kristu Jayanthi College on Saturday celebrated college annual day titled Samyagdarshan. On the occasion, six established former students were honoured with alumni achievement awards for their contribution to the society.

Neelima Gupta, Vice-Chancellor, Harisingh Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Central University, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, was the chief guest.

According to a release from the college, addressing the gathering, Dr. Gupta spoke about the significance of National Education Policy and its impact on the education system.

Further, Dr. Gupta stressed importance of skill development amongst students and the role of the teachers in enhancing and supporting the ideas of young students.

"Teachers must uphold the ideas of students, promote them and disseminate them into the society while sharing these ideas," Dr. Gupta pointed out.

Govt. to introduce star rating system for water fixtures

The government is working on introducing a rating system for water fixtures similar to the star ratings of electrical appliances, said D. Thara, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Mission Director, AMRUT 2.0, on Friday. Speaking at the panel discussion, at Plumbex India 2023, Ms. Thara said, "The government is in the process of bringing in a rating system for water fixtures similar to the star rating of electrical appliances. The new rating system will have 3, 4 and 5 star water fixtures based on their water efficiency and this rating system will come under one umbrella that is Bharat Tap. We have now roped in the Indian Plumbing Association and all manufactures to adopt and promote these standards and bring in water efficient fixtures. Bharat tap is a collaborative effort which was formulated under AMRUT 2.0 to drive water efficiency, and this can be achieved only if water outlets are efficient, be it sanitary fixtures or taps."

3,773 people aged above 80 and PwDs vote from home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An elderly woman casting her vote in Belagavi as the 'vote from home' process started in Karnataka on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A total of 3,773 people aged above 80 and Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Bengaluru exercised their franchise from the comforts of their home on Saturday. The consolidated number of the "vote from home" exercise on day one from across the State is still not available.

As many as 99,529 electors across the State have opted to vote from home in the Assembly elections. These include 80,250 people aged above 80 and 19,279 PwDs. The window for opting the facility closed on April 17. And, polling under the facility that began on April 29 will go on till May 6.

For the first time, the Election Commission has introduced the vote-from-home facility for people aged above 80 and PwDs if they are unable to go out to exercise their franchise. The facility was made available for the 12.15 lakh people aged above 80 (including 16,976 centenarians), and 5.71 lakh benchmarked PwDs in the Assembly elections in Karnataka.

In Bengaluru, there are 2,35,140 electors aged above 80 and of these 9,152 have registered to vote from home. There are 26,058 PwDs and of these 119 have registered to vote from home. The 3,773 who voted from home in Bengaluru on Saturday comprised 3,727 senior citizens and 46 PwDs, according to a release.

A polling team consisting of two polling officers, a security guard and a videographer will go to the voter's house and check the voter ID card. After that, the elector is allowed to exercise secret ballot vote and the entire process is videographed for transparency.

"Polling staff will visit each elector's house twice with ballot papers and ballot boxes with prior information. If the person is not available at home the first time, the officials will go the second time, which will be the last. Those who have registered for voting from home in Form 12D are not allowed to come to the polling station and vote," the release added.

Pre-poll seizures cross ₹300 crore in State

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A security checkpost on a service road of the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Pre-poll seizures in Karnataka made so far since the announcement of the 2023 Assembly elections touched a whopping ₹302 crore on Saturday. This is over 2.5 times higher than what was recorded during the corresponding period in 2018 when ₹115. 91 crore had been seized.

In fact, this time's seizures are almost equal to the pre-poll seizures made in the last four elections in Karnataka. While ₹14.42 crore was seized in 2013 Assembly polls, ₹28.08 crore was confiscated in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, ₹185.74 crore in the 2018 Assembly polls and ₹88.27 crore in 2019 Lok Sabha polls. Nearly 28% of the total seizures, including cash, liquor, drugs, and precious metals have been made in Bengaluru Urban. While ₹81.76 crore have been seized in this district alone, Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga follow with ₹33.87 crore and ₹30.82 crore respectively.

The EC had seized cash and articles worth nearly ₹58 crore (between March 9 to 27) even before the election date was announced. Nearly 100 constituencies have been identified as expenditure sensitive this year and the ECI has deputed 145 expenditure observers this time.

Acknowledging that a major concern in Karnataka is the use of money power, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar, during a review of preparations in the first week of March in Karnataka, had said although the EC was prepared in terms of physical infrastructure, the State agencies were lagging behind in regulating the distribution of freebies.

He had directed the election officials not to wait for the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and start regulating electoral malpractices by extensively using sections 171B and 171E of the Indian Penal Code.

Vigilance

The EC has put in place 2,040 flying squads, 2,605 static surveillance teams, 266 video viewing teams, 631 video surveillance teams and 225 accounting teams. Of the total 942 check posts, 171 have been set up at inter-State borders to track the movement and distribution of goods and monetary transactions to ensure inducement-free election. In 2018, a total of 1,344 flying squads and 1,255 static surveillance teams were set up to monitor electoral irregularities and fraud. This was apart from 200 mobile squads of the Commercial Tax Department.

Attributing the high seizures to increased enforcement activity by various agencies and active vigilance by State electoral machinery, Venkatesh Kumar R., Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), told The Hindu that distribution of freebies is rampant this election.

"The two largest freebie hauls that have been seized are from Bengaluru and Shivamogga. While freebies worth ₹4.5 crore were seized in Shivamogga, a consignment of freebies worth ₹3.6 crore were seized in Byatarayanapura in Bengaluru," Mr. Kumar said.

cVIGIL app

Pointing out that increased citizen participation in enforcing the MCC has also helped, the official said as many as 8,880 complaints had been received through the cVIGIL mobile application so far. As many as 8,865 complaints were found to be correct and action has been taken, he said.

Pre-poll seizures during last four elections

	Districts with highest seizures in 2023	Districts with least seizures in 2023
2013 Assembly ₹14.42 crore	Bengaluru Urban ₹81.76 crore	Kodagu ₹75.73 lakh
2014 Lok Sabha ₹28.08 crore	Chikkamagaluru ₹33.87 crore	Yadgir ₹1.41 crore
2018 Assembly ₹185.74 crore	Shivamogga ₹30.82 crore	Ballari ₹1.68 crore
2019 Lok Sabha ₹88.27 crore	Belagavi ₹ 21.97 crore	Udupi ₹1.98 crore
2023 Assembly (up to April 29) ₹302.78 crore	Dharwad ₹ 12.24 crore	Vijayapura ₹2.4 crore

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, APR. 30	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:34
RISE 14:17	SET 02:22
MONDAY, MAY. 01	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:34
RISE 15:04	SET 02:59
TUESDAY, MAY. 02	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:35
RISE 15:51	SET 03:35

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	26
Mysuru	36	24
Bengaluru	35	22

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Thunderstorm may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm and humid. Spell of light rain and thundershower is a chances at few places.

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All is not rosy in Jayanagar segment

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

KEY CONSTITUENCY

A walk in Jayanagar's streets with its huge trees gives the feel of old Bengaluru and a reminder that it was one of the best planned residential localities in the city. However, residents of the constituency say there are problems that are rarely highlighted, but they should be.

Localities in the constituency such as Gurappanapalya, parts of Byrasandra and J.P. Nagar have been facing many civic issues that have been neglected by the elected representatives. Rajiv Srivatsa, a resident of JP Nagar, said, "Whenever the elections are announced, people think of Jayanagar and feel that there are no issues at all. However, in other parts of the constituency, there are a lot of issues that have been ignored. Construction of the metro has created traffic snarls, the roads of many parts including Jayanagar have a lot of potholes and waterlogging is a major concern during rains." Meanwhile, many areas in the constituency have no streetlights, which has worried the residents as there are cases of theft increasing in residential areas. Prathima Bhat, a homemaker from Jayanagar said, "In residential areas, there many cases of chain snatching and the police have to intervene. The main cause for crimes increasing is because of lack of streetlights in the area."

Former MLA from Jayanagar Ramalinga Reddy from the Congress had remained undefeated till he moved to BTM Layout post delimitation of the Assembly segments in 2008. In 2018, his daughter Soumya Reddy won the constituency was represented by BJP since 2008.

Ms. Reddy is banking on development works she says she has done in the constituency in the past five years. "After I won this constituency, most of the problems have been solved," she said.

There are 2.06 lakh voters in the constituency and the Congress and JD(S) are banking on SC/ST and minority votes, while the BJP is looking to woo Brahmins and Vokkaligas.

Jayanagar Assembly Constituency

Main candidates

Sowmya Reddy
Congress

C.K. Ramamurthy
BJP

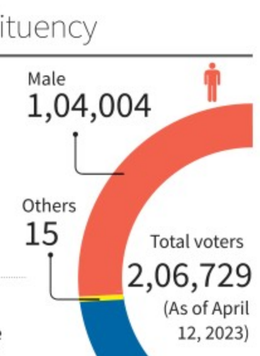
Kale Gowda
JD(S)

What people want

- Completing the metro construction especially near Jayadeva soon
- Better pavements for pedestrians
- Pothole-free roads
- Controlling traffic issues especially parking on roads

History of the seat

- Present MLA of BTM Layout Ramalinga Reddy from the Congress had remained undefeated in Jayanagar till he moved to BTM Layout after delimitation in 2008
- From 1989 to 2004, Ramalinga Reddy represented Jayanagar
- Jayanagar is known as the first planned layout of Bengaluru



Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2018	Sowmya Reddy (Congress)	53,411 51%	B.N. Prahlad (BJP)	51,568 49%	Ravi Krishna Reddy (Ind.)	1,861 1.70%
2013	B.N. Vijaya Kumar (BJP)	43,990 46.03%	M.C. Venugopal (Congress)	31,678 33.15%	K.S. Sameeulla (JD (S)	12,097 12.66%

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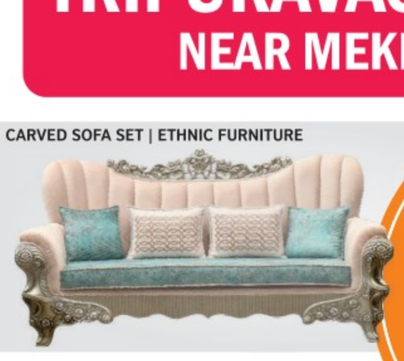

BIGGEST SAVING SALE

MODERN DINING SETS | WOODEN DINING SETS
SIDE BOARD | CROCKERY UNIT

DINING SETS | SIDEBOARDS | CURIOUS CUPBOARD

LIVING ROOM SET | RECLINERS SET | SECTIONAL SOFA

BEDROOM SETS
ARMOIRES & WARDROBES
DRESSERS | MATTRESSES

BUNKER BED

MASSAGE CHAIR

CARVED WOODEN JHULA

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People of Karnataka will respond to verbal abuse by Congress with votes, says Modi

The Prime Minister claims that he has been targeted 91 times with derogatory remarks; says Ambedkar too was abused. He addresses three rallies and holds a roadshow

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Responding to All-India Congress Committee president M. Mallikarjun Kharge's "venomous snake" remark against him and Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah's "corrupt Lingayat CM" comment, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the response to such "verbal abuse" would come in the form of the results of the Assembly elections in Karnataka.

The Prime Minister claimed that he had been targeted by the party leaders 91 times with various derogatory words, addressing an election rally at Humnabad of Bidar district on Saturday. This was the first in a series of rallies he is set to address in Karnataka ahead of the elections.

With party leaders: Prime Minister Narendra Modi waving at supporters during an election rally at Humnabad in Bidar district on Saturday. PTI

Listing 'abuses'

"It is a tradition of the Congress to insult whoever works for the poor, and the country. I am not the only person who was attacked like this. They had attacked me with the 'Chowkidar Chor' slogan. Later, they said 'Modi Chor'. Then they said, the entire OBC community comprises of thieves. Now, at the beginning of this election in Karnataka, they have dared to call Lingayat brothers and sisters thieves... Whenever you [Congress] abuse somebody, you get such a punishment in response that you cannot stand again. This time also, the answer will be given through votes," Mr. Modi said.

"If the Congress had, instead of wasting its time with the dictionary of derogatory words, spent its energy for good governance and raising the enthusiasm of its workers, the party wouldn't have been in such a bad shape," he said. "The Congress wastes time abusing others while I continue to work round the clock."

Mr. Modi claimed that the Congress did not spare even the architect of the Indian Constitution B.R. Ambedkar.

"Once, Babasaheb himself had publicly explained in detail how the Congress repeatedly attacked him. The Congress called the great man a *rakshasa* (demon), a traitor, and a fraud. We see how it is abusing Veer Savarkar these days," he said.

Drawing a parallel to himself, Mr. Modi added, "The Congress is abusing Modi in the same way they had abused Babasaheb and Veer Savarkar. I feel honoured about being treated at a par with such great personalities. I consider it a reward."

Mr. Kharge, addressing an election rally earlier this week, had likened Mr. Modi to a "venomous snake" and later clarified that the comment was aimed at the BJP ideology and not any individual. Mr. Siddaramaiah, at another rally, had referred to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, a Lingayat, as a "corrupt Chief Minister".

I am advising you against coalition governments: PM

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned the people of Karnataka not to vote in a manner that leads to coalition governments, speaking at a rally at Koligudda village of Belagavi district on Saturday.

"I am advising you against coalition governments. Most of their time and energy is lost in ensuring stability. They are engaged in unfavourable practices like buying and selling MLAs. Such governments cannot implement any welfare or development programmes and the dreams of aspiring youth are destroyed," he said.

"I want you to understand that Karnataka needs a stable government by a strong party and only the BJP can provide it," he said.

'Corruption *kaal*'

He accused the Congress of widespread corruption over the decades. "While their tenure was corruption *kaal*, ours is the *amrit kaal*," he said. In Vijayapura, he said that corruption was the accepted system of governance during the Congress rule. "A former Prime Minister of the Congress had confessed that when the Centre released one rupee, only 15 paise reached the beneficiary. However, we have proved this wrong. Since 2014, the BJP-led NDA government has released ₹29 lakh crore to the poor, through direct benefit transfer system," he said.

In campaign mode: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a roadshow in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Prime Minister criticised the loan waiver schemes by the Congress saying they were ploys to fill the treasuries of its own people, while ignoring the small farmers. "But the BJP government started the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi that has DBT benefits," he said.

In both rallies, he repeatedly invoked Basaveshwara. "Basavanna lies at the centre of our faith. His ideals are behind our motto of 'Sabka saath, sabka vikas'. We have introduced and successfully implemented welfare and developments schemes for the these sections," he said.

The Prime Minister held a roadshow in Bengaluru in the evening.

V. Somanna

Somanna's 'attempt to influence' JD(S) leader attracts EC's attention

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission has taken serious note of the matter in which an audio clip was circulated on social media where an attempt was made allegedly by V. Somanna, BJP candidate for Chamarajanagar, to influence Mallikarjuna Swamy alias Alur Mallu, JD (S) candidate from the same constituency, to withdraw candidature by offering money and government vehicle. An FIR has been filed in the matter under Section 171E and 171 F of IPC in the Town Police Station, Chamarajanagar, according to a press release.

Further, the commission has directed the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Karnataka to ensure constant monitoring of the ground situation.

"For conviction under Section 171E and 171 F of IPC, 1860, the election can be annulled on account of corrupt practices under section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the candidate may be disqualified under section 8 (1) (a) of the R.P. Act, 1951," stated the release.

Rajnath invokes Uri Gowda, Nanje Gowda; translator blanks it out

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The names of Uri Gowda and Nanje Gowda – characters introduced in a play a few months ago and projected as being responsible for the death of Tipu Sultan – were invoked on Saturday for the first time in the ongoing election campaign.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who addressed a public meeting and campaigned for the Krishnaraja candidate T.S. Srivatsa, made a reference to Uri Gowda and Nanje Gowda and went on to add that Mysuru was also the land that produced such heroic persons.

But the former MLC G. Madhusudhan, who was translating, ignored both the personalities and rounded up Mr. Rajnath Singh's observation in a single sentence that "this land is blessed to have produced many eminent personalities".

The two characters of Uri Gowda and Nanje Gowda were introduced in a controversial play 'Tippu Nijakanasugalu' (Real dreams of Tipu) written by Rangayana director Addanda C. Cariappa. The two characters were depicted in the play as responsible for killing the 18th Century ruler in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War contrary to the established version of Tipu's death being attributed to a gunshot by an unknown British soldier.

The play drew criticism on the grounds that it was an attempt to rewrite history and drive a wedge between the Vokkaliga community and the Muslims by the BJP for political gains. The community members took exception to it. An arch gate – welcoming Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Mandya to inaugurate the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway – was named after the two characters but after an outcry, was renamed after the late Balagangadharnatha Swami of Adichunchanagiri Mutt.

'Amrit kaal' for BJP MLAs and 'visha kaala' for State, says Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah has hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his comments on the Congress during his three public rallies in Karnataka on Saturday.

Referring to Mr. Modi terming the Congress rule as "*bhrastha kaal*" and the BJP rule as "*amrit kaal*", Mr. Siddaramaiah asked Mr. Modi on Twitter whether he did not remember the "Adanis and Ambanis" and or even notice the Chief Minister and other Ministers on the stage with him who face multiple corruption cases.

He asks Modi whether he does not remember 'Adanis and Ambanis' and or even notice the CM and Ministers on the stage with him who face corruption cases

He also asked whether over ₹8 crore seized by the Lokayukta from BJP MLA Madal Virupakshappa's family homes and office were indeed money procured from selling arecanut. Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Prime Minister should have at least remembered the letter the Karnataka State Contractors' Association wrote to him complaining of "40% commission" and the family of the BJP worker and contractor Santosh Patil who committed suicide unable to pay "commission". "It is indeed an *amrit kaal* for BJP MLAs and Ministers, but it is definitely *visha kaala* for the State," he said.

Mr. Siddaramaiah also attacked Mr. Modi on how the party has allegedly treated the Lingayat community in a "use-and-throw fashion". "People have seen how the BJP jailed B.S. Yediyurappa during the first tenure, replaced him again this time, ill-treated his son and have now blackmailed them using central agencies," he said, alleging the party had denied the ticket to several Lingayat leaders such as Jagadish Shettar and Laxman Savadi to ensure there was no second line of leadership in the community.

He attacked Mr. Modi and said he had lied about the "achievements" of the BJP government and that the Congress had abused him 91 times. "Haven't your party leaders, including you, abused our party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi?" he asked, listing out the manner in which the Gandhis have been referred to in a derogatory manner in the past.

Paid holiday for exercising postal ballot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Election Commission (EC) has written to the Chief Secretary to grant a paid holiday to employees working under essential services for exercising postal ballot in the the Assembly polls.

The ECI has notified that the Electricity Department, BSNL, Railways, Doordarshan, All India Radio, Health Department, aviation, transport services (KSRTC, BMTC, NWKRTC, and NEKRTC), Fire Services, traffic police, ambulance services, and media persons authorised by the EC for poll-day coverage under essential services.

Postal ballot centres will be opened in all districts and employees of essential services can cast their vote at their respective centres from May 2 to 4 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., said an official release.

Man who came to limelight during hijab row is BJP candidate here

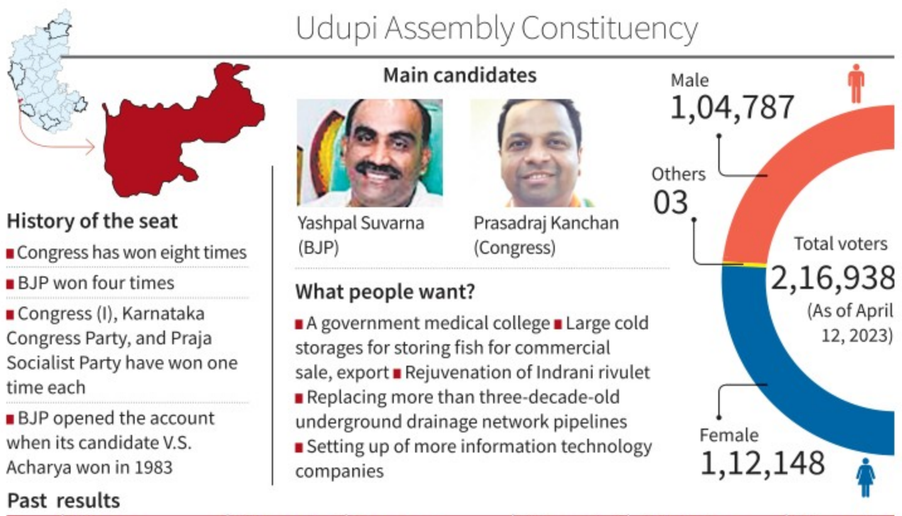
KEY CONSTITUENCY

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

The coastal city of Udupi hit the headlines last year when a government pre-university college for girls turned down the demand of six Muslim girls to allow them to wear hijab or headscarf in classrooms. The vice-president of the college development committee, Yashpal Suvarna, who stood firmly with the president of the committee and incumbent BJP MLA K. Raghupathi Bhat in making the "dress code" mandatory in the college, is the BJP candidate in the Udupi Assembly constituency.

Udupi is among the five constituencies in the coastal districts where the BJP denied the ticket to its incumbent MLAs.

There is a straight fight between the BJP and the Congress in the constituency. Mr. Suvarna, 44, who is a novice, is facing another new entrant Prasadraj Kanchan, 50, an automobile entrepreneur, of the Congress. If Mr. Suvarna is a diploma holder in IT, Mr. Kanchan holds an MBA degree. Both are from the Mogaveera (fishermen) community.


Udupi Assembly Constituency
Main candidates
Yashpal Suvarna (BJP)
Prasadraj Kanchan (Congress)
History of the seat
Congress has won eight times
BJP won four times
Congress (I), Karnataka Congress Party, and Praja Socialist Party have won one time each
BJP opened the account when its candidate V.S. Acharya won in 1983
What people want?
A government medical college
Large cold storages for storing fish for commercial sale, export
Rejuvenation of Indrani rivulet
Replacing more than three-decade-old underground drainage network pipelines
Setting up of more information technology companies
Male 1,04,787
Others 03
Total voters 2,16,938 (As of April 12, 2023)
Female 1,12,148

Past results

	Winner	Votes polled Vote share	Runner-up	Votes polled Vote share	Third place	Votes polled Vote share
2013	Pramod Madhwaraj (Congress)	86,868 62.75%	B. Sudhakar Shetty (BJP)	47,344 34.20 %	Alevoor Yogeesh Acharya (Ind.)	1472 1.06 %
2018	K. Raghupathi Bhat (BJP)	84,946 52.31%	Pramod Madhwaraj (Congress)	72,902 44.89 %	Birthy Gangadhar Bhandary (JD-S)	1,361 0.84 %

Mr. Suvarna is also president of the Dakshina Kannada and Udupi District Cooperative Fish Marketing Federation Ltd. and national general secretary of the BJP Backward Classes Morcha. Mr. Kanchan's mother, Sarala Kanchan, had unsuccessfully contested on the Congress ticket from the erstwhile Brahmavara constituency in Udupi district in 1999. He was also the president of the Udupi Chamber of Commerce and Industry a decade ago.

Mr. Suvarna stoked a controversy by stating last year that India would impose a blanket ban on wearing the hijab in public places.

The Udupi Zilla Muslim Okkoota had strongly condemned his statement. "If the BJP as a national political party resorts to silence and indirectly accepts his statement, it is a worrying situation," secretary of the Okkoota Ismail Hussain had said.

He had called the six students of the Government Pre-University College for Girls who had demanded that they be allowed to wear the hijab as "anti-nationals", alleging that they were hand in glove with the now-banned Popular Front of India (PFI). Political analysts then had viewed his statements as preparing the ground for entering the Assembly election fray.

Falls in line

Though three-time BJP MLA Mr. Bhat was initially

Udupi is among the five constituencies in the coastal districts where the BJP denied the ticket to its incumbent MLAs

upset, shed tears over the party not fielding him for the fourth time and vented his anger against the party for not intimating him in advance not to contest, he later fell in line and has been involved in campaigning for Mr. Suvarna.

Family politics

Interestingly, three members of a single family, the late Malpe Madhwaraj, his wife, Manorama Madhwaraj, and their son, Pramod Madhwaraj, have been elected from this constituency. Of the nine victories of the Congress (including the victory of the Congress (I) candidate Manorama Madwaraj in 1978) in the constituency, members of the same family have won six times. Of them, Malpe Madhwaraj won in 1962, Ms. Manorama Madhwaraj won four times – in 1972, 1978, 1985, and 1989, and Mr. Pramod Madhwaraj won in 2013. Later Ms. Manorama Madhwaraj joined the BJP and won the 2004 Lok Sabha election from the then Udupi parliamentary constituency. Following in his mother's footsteps, Mr. Pramod Madhwaraj joined the BJP last year. The mother and son both were Ministers in the erstwhile Congress governments.

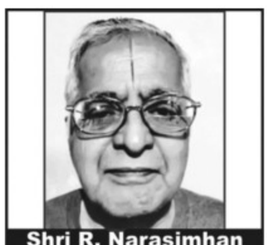
It was late V.S. Acharya who opened the BJP account in the constituency in 1983.

A temple town

The constituency is famous for the Sri Krishna Mutt/Temple and the Ashta Mutts established by the propounder of the Dwaita philosophy Sri Madhwacharya, the enchanting Malpe beach, and reputed educational institutions in Manipal.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Shri R. Narasimhan
Manager (Retd) Canara Bank
S/o Late Shri T. Rajagopalan, Indian Express
Attained Acharyan Tiruvadigal and Baba's Lotus Feet On 27-04-2023
Bereaved by
(wife) Chitra Narasimhan & Family
4 Rajkamal Apartments 29, 4th Trust Cross St, Mandavelipakkam Ch-28. Ct 94453 94254

Jumbo task: The tusker blindfolded before being moved into a truck at Chinnakkanal in Idukki. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

Arikompan caught, to be released in Periyar sanctuary

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

A day after they set out to capture and translocate wild tusker Arikompan, the members of the special task force of the Forest Department succeeded in the mission after a gruelling day-and-night operation on Saturday. Tranquillised and hemmed in by four kumki elephants, the tusker put up stiff resistance but finally allowed itself to be pushed into the loading bay of a specially equipped truck which left Chinnakkanal late evening.

Driving rain and thick fog threatened to hamper the operation but finally, the animal was radio-collared and loaded on to the truck, to be transported about 100 km away. It will be released into the Periyar wildlife sanctuary by night.

After hours of intense search inside the deep forests, the tusker came under the team's surveillance around 9 a.m. on Saturday near the Suryanelli hills at Chinnakkanal, Idukki. Firecrackers were burst to force the elephant to come down to Vilakk, near Cement Palam, around 11 a.m. Chief Forest Veterinary Surgeon Arun Zacharia fired the first tranquilizer shot around 11.35 a.m., which was followed by four booster doses. Four kumki elephants then managed to guide the tusker to a location close to the road after about two hours.

Soon, a new path was hewed nearby using an earth mover and a truck was brought in. After a prolonged effort in heavy rain, the task force finally made the tusker enter the vehicle, which then left for Thekkady around 6 p.m. Hundreds of people were waiting on the roadside to catch a glimpse of the tusker. A she-elephant and a calf were seen roaming near the truck, just before it left the spot.

Idukki district panchayat president Usha Kumari Mohankumar said the capture of Arikompan provided a big relief to the people at Chinnakkanal.

TS bags ₹7,218-cr. agri food investment commitments

The largest among the investment commitments is the ₹1,055 crore TS Oil FED has proposed on oil processing units in Bhadradri, Siddipet, Gadwal, Khammam, Mahabubabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana received a whopping ₹7,218-crore investment commitments on Saturday from as many as 27 agri food firms on a range of projects they propose to establish, from units that will make beverages and snack food, ethanol unit to spices, palm oil, meat and fish processing plants.

They are "a nice bouquet of companies" is how Industries Minister K.T.Rama Rao described, announcing the investment commitments received at The Food Conclave 2023 organised here by the State government. The projects will create 58,458 direct and indirect employment opportunities, he said.

K.T. Rama Rao

Bound to come as a shot in the arm for the ongoing government efforts to facilitate and accelerate growth across the agri-food chain, the announcements were preceded by a series of meetings the Minister and his team had with the prospective investors at the day-long conclave.

The largest among the investment commitments is the ₹1,055 crore Telangana State Co-operative Oil Seeds Growers Federation Ltd (TS Oil FED) has proposed on oil processing units in Bhadradri, Siddipet, Gadwal, Khammam, Mahabubabad.

But in terms of a single unit, the largest investment proposed is ₹1,050 crore by Patanjali Foods Limited (Ruchi Soya) for an oil processing unit in Nalgonda Oil processing unit.

The next biggest investment proposed is ₹829 crore by Varun Beverages Ltd and Four Zero LLP for beverage manufacturing unit in Peddapur, Sangareddy.

Forming part of the investment commitments are also integrated rice mill, Heritage Foods' milk and milk processing plants and Masqati dairy facilities for milk processing and ice cream.

The proposed investments will be in addition to the over ₹7,000 crore worth fixed capital base to food processing capacities that the State attracted over the past five years, the Minister said in a release.

'T.N. should opt for BJP for stability'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Bharatiya Janata Party's spokesperson and fashion designer Shaina N.C. on Saturday said Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai was raising legitimate questions on corruption and expressed the hope that he will be able to bring about a change in the State.

To a question from an audience member at a joint meeting here of the Rotary Club of Madras, Rotary Club of Madras East and Rotary Next Gen, where she delivered a speech, Ms. Shaina said that Mr. Annamalai had a huge support base.

Fashion designer Shaina N.C. giving away the awards of the Rotary Club of Madras to women achievers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

She said the people of Tamil Nadu should consider the BJP as an option if they wanted stability, good governance and the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

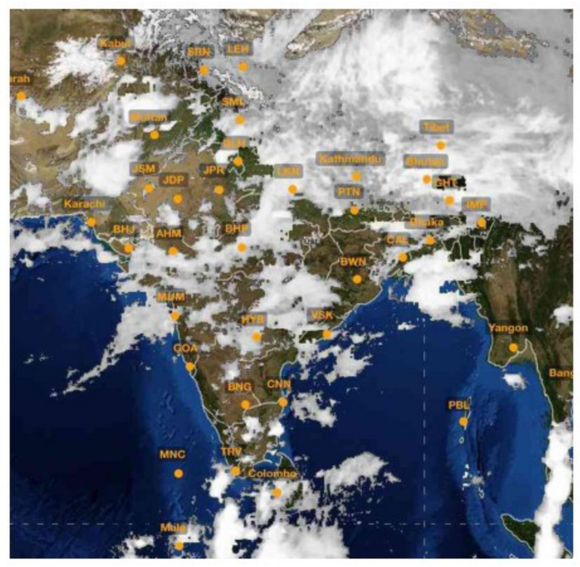
She spoke on the need for increased representation of women in Parliament, which she said was low at just 14.6%. Stating that the BJP was a party with a difference, Ms. Shaina pointed out that it gave 33% representation organisationally.

Dismissing concerns that husbands would call the shots if more women become elected representatives, she said that may be the case for a brief period. "Once the women get the hang of it and know how to play the game, they will not only be conscientious and capable, but will give back to the society in a larger way," she said.

Ms. Shaina gave away the awards of Rotary Club of Madras to various women achievers.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Odisha, Telangana, Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty wind likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Bihar, central Maharashtra, Puducherry and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	37.2	23.5	Kozhikode	—	35.9	26.6
Ahmedabad	3	32.8	23.2	Kurnool	0.8	35.6	23.6
Aizawl	—	35.4	16.6	Lucknow	—	34.8	22.3
Allahabad	—	38.0	25.0	Madurai	14	35.4	25.5
Bengaluru	—	31.1	22.2	Mangaluru	—	34.7	26.6
Bhopal	9	—	19.5	Mumbai	0.2	33.4	25.0
Bhubaneswar	—	38.4	23.4	Mysuru	—	36.2	21.9
Chandigarh	—	36.8	22.2	New Delhi	—	33.1	22.2
Chennai	—	35.6	28.0	Patna	—	35.5	26.7
Coimbatore	—	35.5	25.0	Port Blair	—	35.0	26.8
Dehradun	—	31.3	18.4	Puducherry	—	34.8	27.6
Gangtok	73	18.0	11.8	Pune	2.6	35.5	22.7
Goa	—	34.8	25.3	Raipur	7.6	35.0	19.5
Guwahati	—	31.3	21.7	Ranchi	—	31.8	21.5
Hubballi	—	34.0	23.0	Shillong	—	22.9	13.2
Hyderabad	57	31.9	21.0	Shimla	5	20.0	12.0
Imphal	—	32.8	20.8	Srinagar	4.6	17.7	7.4
Jaipur	—	31.2	21.0	Thiruvananthapuram	24	33.2	23.7
Kochi	10	32.2	24.8	Tiruchi	15	34.7	27.0
Kohima	2	23.4	18.4	Vijayawada	—	37.8	27.0
Kolkata	—	37.6	27.4	Visakhapatnam	—	35.5	27.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	..89	57	 99	...132	
Bengaluru	.26	..11	54	 81	97	
Chennai	...2	..72	97	 66	61	
Delhi	.23	..54	42	... 222	...331	
Hyderabad	...7	..24	44	 63	90	
Kolkata	...8	..22	22	 59	69	
Lucknow	...7	..59	36	... 143	...166	
Mumbai	...8	..14	21	... 133	...100	
Pune	.10	..17	31	 73	...120	
Visakhapatnam	.17	..42	16	 69	...101	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 309 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PM visit: Traffic diversions on expressway today

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Traffic on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway will be diverted to alternative routes on certain stretches from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ramanagara district.

Mr. Modi is scheduled to address an election rally near Mattikere-Shettihalli in Channapatna taluk on Sunday. A statement from the Deputy Commissioner of Mandya district said vehicles proceeding to Bengaluru from Mysuru via Maddur would have to take a deviation at Hemmanahalli Gate (Adiga's Hotel) and proceed on the Kesturu-Huliyurdurga-Mangaluru national highway. Vehicles proceeding towards Bengaluru from Mysuru via Mandya should take a deviation and proceed on the Bannur-Kirugavalu-Malavalli, Halaguru and Kanakapura route. Vehicles proceeding to Bengaluru from Kollegal and Malavalli via Maddur should take the Malavalli-Halaguru-Kanakapura route, the statement from the DC added.

Vehicles proceeding to Bengaluru from Mysuru via Maddur will have to take a deviation at Hemmanahalli Gate and proceed on Huliyurdurga-Mangaluru NH

Good harvest

Granaries filling up: Farmers drying the harvested paddy in Palakkad on Saturday. They want the Kerala government to procure the entire paddy produced in the State. K.K. MUSTAFAH

TDP to release manifesto on BC's challenges in A.P.

The Hindu Bureau
KAKINADA

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) State president Kinjarapu Atchannaidu on Saturday said that a manifesto would soon be released on the challenges being faced by the Backward Classes (BCs) in Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. Atchannaidu was addressing a roundtable organised here by the party for preparing an action plan for the welfare of the BCs.

A few leaders from the Left parties also participated.

The roundtable also resolved to press for setting up a Ministry of Backward Classes Welfare by the Union government.

Leaders who spoke at the meeting said that the BCs would remain the backbone of the TDP.

'YSRCP diverting funds'

The leaders alleged that the funds meant for the welfare of the BCs were being diverted to various other welfare schemes by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government.

Senior TDP leaders Yanamala Ramakrishnudu, Kimidi Kala Venkata Rao, Reddi Subramanyam, K.S. Jawahar, Vanamadi Venkateswara Rao (Kondababu), Bandaru Satyanarayana, Jyothula Naveen Kumar, and Nimmakayala Chinarajappa, CPI leader T. Madhu and several CPI(M) leaders were present.

Close to 4,000 painted storks nesting in two A.P. villages

Ramesh Susarla
ANANTAPUR

One of the largest flocks of painted storks (*Mycteria leucocephala*), approximately 4,000 birds, have made tall trees in Veepapuram and Venkatapuram villages of Andhra Pradesh their breeding ground, and are currently looking after 6,000 chicks.

By May-end to June-end when the chicks are more than three months old, they will fly away along with adults. They mostly inhabit wetlands in the plains breed closer to undisturbed/protected trees.

Copious amounts of rain received in the region during last monsoon has made it a favourable breeding ground for these colourful winged guests.

Winged visitor: A painted stork guarding its nest at Veerapuram village in Andhra Pradesh. RAMESH SUSARLA

While it was only 2,500 to 3,000 in 2019, two years of good rain has brought enough shallow water into both the village tanks making them the right wading grounds for the painted storks, who survive on small fish, and occasionally on frogs and snakes.

Kumarakom to conduct four-day tourism fest

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

Kumarakom in Kerala will be hosting a tourism festival from May 12 to 15. From the local cuisine to the indigenous handicraft and new locations to night life packages, a variety of tourism products and services will be showcased as part of the festival.

"The event has been designed to rebrand the entire panchayat as a safe destination offering tourism services in each of its wards," said Dhanya Sabu, president of the panchayat body.

NGT disappointed over delay in removal of burnt waste from Brahmapuram yard

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The National Green Tribunal has expressed its displeasure over the delay in the removal of the burnt waste, plastic, ash and refused derived fuel (RDF) from the dump yard of the Kochi Corporation in Brahmapuram, after a massive fire on March 2.

The Southern Bench comprising of Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana, and expert member Dr. Satyagopal Korlapati has asked the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Local Self Government to appear before it online to clarify the plan of action and the timeline within which it could be completed, considering the risk involved in leaving the site unattended. The official has to submit details of the proposed waste to energy plant and the time required for completing it.

Delay in the removal of the waste from the dump site in Brahmapuram is a matter of serious concern, says NGT.

The Bench said that the delay in safe removal of the waste was a matter of serious concern as the heaps of fire-affected waste would enter the ground and affect the drinking water sources, with the start of the monsoon period.

It would be more hazardous than the fire itself, it said.

As per the report submitted by the authorities, about 80,000 tonnes of RDF have been recovered from the fire-hit sectors. The tribunal stated that it could be transported to the cement manufacturing units till the waste-to-energy plant is commissioned.

"We are at a loss to understand as to why the various limbs of the government are keeping quiet without removing the same," it said.

From Page One

Behind the 'dearth' of rabies vaccine

In 24 to 32 hours, most Indian companies have the capacity to produce close to 50,000 vials. "In the case of polio, production of vials can go up to a lakh or two lakh in that time. With the polio vaccine, one vial has up to 10 doses. The rabies vaccine vial can be used only in the measure of one dose per person," the executive adds.

There are now seven big Indian makers: Indian Immunologicals' Abhayrab, Bharat Biotech's IndiRab, Cadila Pharma's ThRabis, Serum Institute of India's Rabivax-S, Sanofi Pasteur's Verorab, BIOMED's SureRab, and Chiron Behring's ChiroRab.

Indian Immunologicals has a market share of 27.6%, with Bharat Biotech commanding 15.6%, followed by Chiron Behring at 8.7%, and Cadila Pharma at 7.9%.

A senior official from Bharat Biotech says that the company has the capacity to manufacture 4 to 5 million vaccine vials a month. Even if the manufacturing plant is functioning at 80% of its full capacity, the company can churn out 3.2 million to 4.2 million vials each month. In an ideal situation, States should forecast demand and stockpile rabies vaccine over a period of two years. "But, if tenders are delayed and domestic demand is not forecast properly, manufacturers are compelled to produce according to demand," the official explains.

Pricing challenges

"Major Indian manufacturers supply rabies vaccine to countries like Turkey, Bangladesh, Myanmar and some African nations, among others. Although the rabies vaccines are produced in adequate amount to meet the demand of the country, the manufacturers focus on exporting more than 30% of their production as they get a higher price through exports," says Raj Shah, Lead Consultant, Coherent Market Insights.

Cadila Healthcare exports its product Vaxirab between $5.1 and $5.6 (₹417 and ₹458, approximately). "In private hospitals in India, each vial of rabies vaccine is sold at ₹350 to ₹400 per dose," Mr. Shah says. In the government system, vials are procured at a further discounted rate.

Kejriwal and Priyanka visit protesting wrestlers, say govt. shielding WFI chief

If anybody from BJP is found doing any criminal activity, nothing will happen to him, says AAP leader, while accused Brij Bhushan says he is ready for any investigation, but will not resign

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the Delhi Police registered two FIRs against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the ongoing stir by wrestlers at Jantar Mantar received another shot in the arm with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra visiting the protest site to extend support.

Both leaders, after their separate interactions with the wrestlers, accused the Modi government of protecting Mr. Singh, against whom women wrestlers have levelled allegations of sexual harassment.

"Why is this man being safeguarded by the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi?" Mr. Kejriwal asked, pointing out that the wrestlers had to stage a sit-in and knock on the doors of the Supreme Court just to register an FIR. "The entire party has come together to safeguard one man. If anybody from the BJP is found doing any criminal activity, nothing will happen to them," he said.

In solidarity: Arvind Kejriwal joins the wrestlers' protest against BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh in New Delhi. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Ms. Vadra called for the WFI chief's removal to ensure that he cannot "exert pressure" on the wrestlers and "destroy" their careers. "I want to ask why so much is being done to protect this man. What does it say about our country if we cannot save our girls."

"I do not have any expectations from the Prime Minister, because if he had been concerned about the wrestlers, then he would have at least spoken to them," Ms. Vadra said in the presence of top wrestlers such as Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Hooda and former Olympian and Rajasthan MLA Krishna Poonia expressed disappointment with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief P.T. Usha, who had called the protest an act of indiscipline. "IOA chief is not a political post, but she did not stand with the players... she should introspect," he said.

Amid rumours of his resigning and wrestlers accusing him of pressuring them to end protest, Mr. Singh finally spoke to the media saying it was orchestrated by a political-industrialist nexus. Denying any plan to resign – a cosmetic move given the incumbent WFI Board has been replaced by an ad hoc committee and Mr. Singh himself declaring he will not contest the next elections – he said he is ready for "any kind of investigation". "I'm not a criminal. Resigning means I have accepted their allegations," the BJP MP from Kaiserganj told reporters.

Gujarat HC posts Rahul's case for final hearing on May 2

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Rahul Gandhi

The Gujarat High Court on Saturday posted Rahul Gandhi's plea challenging a Surat court order declining to stay his conviction in a criminal defamation case for final hearing on May 2.

The High Court has asked the lawyers of Mr. Gandhi as well as the State government to file their reply by May 2 when the court will hear the final arguments.

During the hearing on Saturday, senior lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi while appearing for the former Congress president told the High Court that "very serious *ex-facie* vitiating factors" about the trial's process led to the conviction of Mr. Gandhi in the defamation case over his "Modi surname" remark.

'No *locus standi*'

Mr. Singhvi in detailed arguments quoting several judgments of the Supreme Court and various High Courts contended that there was "*prima facie*" no case of defamation in the first place.

The case was filed by the BJP legislator Purnesh Modi over Mr. Gandhi's remarks at a political rally in Karnataka during the last parliamentary election.

Mr. Singhvi on Saturday submitted that the complainant Mr. Modi had no "*locus standi*" in the first place and voiced concerns over the way the trial was conducted by the magisterial court in Surat.

In March this year, a metropolitan magistrate's court in Surat found Mr. Gandhi guilty of criminal defamation and sentenced him to two years in jail after convicting him under IPC Sections 499 and 500 (criminal defamation).

On Saturday, Mitesh Amin, Government Pleader, argued for the State opposing the granting of stay on the conviction.

Nicobar project violates tribal rights, says ST commission

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The project intends to use about 7.114 sq. km of tribal reserve forest land.

The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has flagged alleged discrepancies with respect to the forest clearance granted for the ₹72,000-crore Great Nicobar Island (GNI) Project.

Citing alleged violations under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, the panel issued notice in April to district authorities on the Andaman and Nicobar islands on grounds that the project will significantly affect the rights of local tribespeople and that the NCST was not consulted.

Earlier this month, the National Green Tribunal ordered a stay on the project and constituted a committee to revisit the environmental clearance.

Months after the project was granted forest clearance, implementation reports prepared by the Tribal Affairs Ministry show the island administration neither recognised nor granted ownership of any forest land to tribespeople under the FRA, a requisite step under the Forest Conservation Rules, 2017, before Stage I clearance is granted.

The clearance was granted in October 2022, two years after the application was received. The project being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation includes a transshipment port, airport, power plant and greenfield township.

The government has said in Parliament that the project intends to use about 7.114 sq. km of tribal reserve forest land, where the Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG), and the Nicobarese reside. It insisted that local people will not be displaced for the project.

The NCST, in its notice sent this month to the island administration, has sought a detailed action-taken report on the alleged procedural lapses within 15 days. The Commission said it was taking cognisance of a complaint from retired bureaucrat E.A.S. Sarma, who was the former Tribal Affairs Secretary to the Andhra Pradesh government.

'No consultation'

Mr. Sarma had said the Constitution mandated that the government consult the NCST on any matters involving the rights of tribespeople.

He went on to allege that the panel was not consulted for the GNI project and that there were alleged violations of the FRA as well.

The NCST's intervention in the project comes even as Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda is currently on a tour of the islands discussing ways to better implement the tribal welfare schemes and oversee the PM-PVTG Mission.

According to Rule 6(3) (e) of Forest Conservation Rules-2017 (FCR), any diversion of forest land would first require the District Collector to recognise and vest rights to local people under the FRA. Only then do the rules permit authorities to seek consent of the now-rights-holding gram panchayats for the diversion of this land – a provision envisioned to give primacy to rights of indigenous forest-dwelling communities.

No budget cuts or reduction in staff of research institutes due to mergers: DST official

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has proposed to merge the Raman Research Institute (RRI), Bangalore, with the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research, Bangalore, as part of a "rationalisation" exercise. The RRI, founded in 1948 by Sir C.V. Raman, is among the country's top institutes for research into theoretical and high-energy physics.

The DST has also proposed to merge the S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and the Bose Institute, both in Kolkata, with the Kolkata-based Indian Association for Cultivation of Sciences.

The Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, and the National Academy of Sciences (NASI), Allahabad, will be merged into the Indian Association of Science. While India doesn't have a science academy by that name, there is the Bangalore-based Indian Academy of Sciences. *The Hindu* could not establish if this was a typographical error.

The Technology Information and Forecasting Council, New Delhi, the Indian National Academy of Engineering, and the Indian Science Congress Association, which organises the annual Indian Science Congress, have been recommended to become "corporatised" and Section-8 companies.

S. Chandrasekhar, Secretary, DST, told *The Hindu* that the rationalisation exercise was still ongoing, but the mergers did not imply that the institutions would see budgetary cuts or reduction in staff. "Nothing is being closed or merged. It is just that certain administrative functions will be streamlined. Both the Department of Biotechnology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences have undertaken a similar exercise," he said. "The broader aim is minimum government and maximum governance .Some institutes were structured as trusts, some as societies, some as research institutes... some are paid too less. We are still studying the best way to organise them."

He didn't elaborate on a timeline for Vigyan Prasar, proposed to be wound up, but said that the "charter of the institute and the ways to improve visibility of each activity [science popularisation, communication] were being reviewed".

Twitter takes down tweets globally in response to HC order

Aroon Deep
CHENNAI

Twitter globally took down tweets from Indian users in response to an order from the Punjab & Haryana High Court issued in February, according to information from the social media platform provided to Saurav Das, a transparency activist and journalist whose posts were removed from the platform recently.

The Hindu has seen a copy of the notice, sent to Mr. Das after he filed a complaint with Twitter under provisions of the IT Rules, 2021.

It is uncommon for Twitter to take down content globally in response to a regional request, especially when the reported content is not illegal in other parts of the world. *The Hindu* first reported the global takedown of Mr. Das's tweets on April 8.

The Punjab & Haryana High Court Bench of Justices G.S. Sandhawalia and Harpreet Kaur Jeewan that ordered the takedowns did not mention Union Home Minister Amit Shah, whom the removed tweets by Mr. Das quoted.

A review of the court orders in the case reveals that the matter is a *suo motu* contempt proceeding initiated by the court against three individuals. The court ruled that the three individuals were tarnishing its reputation with certain remarks.

Mr. Das is not one of those three individuals, and the court orders don't mention Mr. Shah. While it is unclear how these tweets ended up in the proceeding, Twitter – which was represented by four advocates in hearings – seems to have complied with the global takedown order.

ED looking into overseas remittances by Byju's

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is also looking into overseas direct investment of ₹9,754 crore by Think & Learn Private Ltd., which runs the portal Byju's.

The ED said that its search on Saturday revealed that the company received FDI of ₹28,000 crore from 2011 to 2023. Further, it remitted ₹9,754 crore to various foreign jurisdictions in the name of overseas direct investment.

The agency said the company had not prepared financial statements since 2020-21 and had not got the accounts audited, which is mandatory.

Hence, the genuineness of the figures provided by the company was being cross-examined from the banks, it said.

Rekha, wife of Galwan hero Naik Deepak Singh, joins Army

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Woman cadet Rekha Singh, wife of Galwan braveheart Naik Deepak Singh who was awarded Vir Chakra posthumously, was commissioned into the Indian Army on Saturday following completion of her training from the Officers Training Academy (OTA) here.

She was among the cadets who completed their training and a spectacular parade reviewed by Chief of the Army Staff, Bangladesh Army, S.M. Shafiuddin Ahmed marked the passing out ceremony of Short Service Commissioned officers at Officers Training Academy on Saturday. The face-off between the Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley occurred in 2020.

Rekha Singh

For the first time, five women cadets got commissioned into the Artillery Regiment and in all, 186 cadets, including five gentlemen cadets and 24 women cadets from Bhutan completed their training at OTA, a defence release here said.

As many as 121 gentlemen cadets and 36 women cadets got commissioned into various arms and services of the Indian Army.

Abhilash Tomy scripts maritime history

Retired Naval Commander becomes first Indian to complete the Golden Globe race, finishing in the second spot; South African sailor Kirsten Neuschafer becomes first woman to win the race

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Commander Abhilash Tomy (retd) created history as the first Indian to complete the Golden Globe Race on Saturday, finishing in the second place after a gruelling 236 days alone at sea in his sail boat *Bayanat*, in a journey of grit and endurance.

South African sailor Kirsten Neuschafer also scripted her name into maritime history, becoming the first woman to win the race, a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe without using any modern technological aids, recreating the 1960s on the high seas.

The race started on September 4, 2022 from the French port of Les Sables-d'Olonne, with 16 sailors from 11 countries.

Titanium will: Abhilash Tomy, on his sail boat *Bayanat*, finishing his solo non-stop journey around the world. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Almost eight months later, Ms. Neuschäfer officially became the first woman to win a "round the world race by the three great capes, including solo and fully crewed races, non-stop or with stops, and the first South African sailor to win a round-the-world event", the organisers said.

Test of endurance

Congratulating Cdr. Tomy on his exceptional achievement, Navy chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said that it was even more special, considering the fact that the naval veteran had been critically injured in a storm when he competed in the race in 2018.

Despite the fact that he had a spinal injury, Cdr. Tomy insisted on participating in the Golden Globe Race for a second time, Admiral Kumar said, speaking on the sidelines of an event.

The historic race is being conducted by the Sir Robin Knox Johnston of the U.K. to commemorate the world's first solo, non-stop circumnavigation undertaken by him in 1968.

To his credit, Cdr. Tomy is the only Indian to complete a solo, non-stop circumnavigation of the globe in 2012-13, covering 53,000 nautical miles under sail.

Cong. chief blames BJP for violence in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge took to Twitter on Saturday to blame the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the violence in Manipur, and accused the ruling party of "bulldozing" the rights of indigenous communities.

"The situation in BJP-ruled Manipur is disturbing. Law and order has been completely derailed in the State under the double-engine government. The BJP is hell-bent to trample and bulldoze the rights of vulnerable indigenous communities. We strongly condemn it," he said in a tweet.

Meanwhile, the situation in Churachandpur remained grim as unidentified miscreants set a government building on fire, even as night curfew was imposed in the district from Saturday until further orders, officials said.
(With PTI inputs)

Opposition parties may meet in Patna after Karnataka poll

Nitish says issues related to forging Opposition unity might be discussed at length in the meeting; earlier, West Bengal Chief Minister had requested her Bihar counterpart to host a meet in Patna

Press Trust of India
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday hinted that a meeting of Opposition leaders may take place in Patna after the crucial Karnataka Assembly election was over, as many leaders are busy electioneering in the State.

The Janata Dal (U) [JD (U)] supremo said issues related to forging Opposition unity might be discussed at length in the meeting. "We will definitely sit together and discuss the issue pertaining to the formation of an alliance of Opposition parties to take on the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Currently, some leaders are busy with the Assembly election. Once it is over, we will finalise the venue of our meeting. If Patna is unanimously decided as the next venue of the meeting of Opposition leaders, it will be held here," Mr. Kumar said.

Charting a course: RJD chief Lalu Prasad with Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at his residence in Patna on Friday. PTI

"We will be happy to organise the meeting in Patna," he added.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, after meeting Mr. Kumar and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav in Kolkata on April 24, had requested her counterpart to organise a meeting of all non-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) parties in Patna to discuss Opposition unity before the coming Lok Sabha election.

"We are making efforts to unite more and more parties in the country against the BJP-led Central government. I recently met several Opposition leaders. Now I will talk to other non-BJP parties ... My aim is to unite the Opposition parties before the general election," the Bihar Chief Minister said. After meeting with the Trinamool chief, Mr. Kumar and Mr. Yadav had met Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow on the same day and discussed the formation of an alliance of Opposition parties.

The Trinamool and the Samajwadi Party, which earlier wanted to keep both the Congress and the BJP at a distance, seem to have changed their stance and conveyed as much after the separate meetings the two parties leaders had with Mr. Kumar.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kumar also met Lalu Prasad on Friday, as the RJD supremo landed in his home town after seven months, amid speculation that the two leaders would jointly work towards forging a country-wide Opposition unity to take on the BJP.

Wife of slain officer moves SC against former MP's release

Anand Mohan was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing an IAS officer in 1994

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Uma Krishnaiah, the widow of murdered Gopalganj District Magistrate and IAS officer G. Krishnaiah has moved the Supreme Court against a tweak in the Bihar prison law which facilitated the premature release of former MP and gangster-turned-politician Anand Mohan. Mohan was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing Krishnaiah in 1994. He was released from the Saharsa prison on Thursday.

The Bihar Prison Manual was amended on April 10 to allow convicts serving life imprisonment for heinous offences to apply for remission if they had completed 14 years in prison. The amendment also removed the bar on life convicts involved in the murder of a public servant on duty from seeking remission of sentence. No reason whatsoever was given for the amendment which was brought into effect through a State Law Department notification.

The amendment served well for Mohan and 26 others, who applied for remission and got it.

"Life imprisonment, when awarded as a substitute for the death penalty, has to be carried out strictly as directed by the court and would be beyond application of remission," she said in her petition.

Critics of the Nitish government claim the amendment was done to deliberately facilitate the release of Mohan, a Rajput strongman, who could add heft to the electoral fight against the BJP.

Nitish govt. did nothing for IAS officer's family: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad slammed the Nitish Kumar government claiming that it did not do anything for the family members of slain IAS officer G. Krishnaiah.

"I wish to know why in the first place the clause of keeping those accused of killing government servants on duty out of the purview of remission of sentence was introduced," he said. "He should first explain why he commissioned that and then justified its removal."

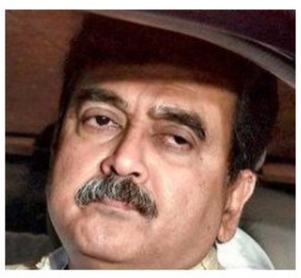
"Most importantly, did the Nitish Kumar government do anything for the wife and daughter of G. Krishnaiah. The Andhra Pradesh government gave plot and job as well. I want to know what the Bihar government did for his family members. Even dreaded criminals were released on the pretext of Anand Mohan," Mr. Prasad asserted.

Abhijit Gangopadhyay: a High Court judge with his own style of delivering justice

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

"My hands are being tied again and again," Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay, 61, had said in an appeal to the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court about a year ago when his judgments in the West Bengal school job-for-bribe scam case were stayed by a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court.

In a special sitting late on Friday, the Supreme Court stayed Justice Gangopadhyay's order to place before him, by midnight, documents based on which the top court had reassigned the scam case from him. The case is under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the role of Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee is under the scanner. Mr. Banerjee had recently moved the Supreme Court, pointing its attention to a TV interview of Justice Gangopadhyay, in which he spoke about the case pending before him.



> Each person has a different style of functioning; I have worked in my style. The next Justice who will be assigned the case will have his own style
>
> **ABHIJIT GANGOPADHYAY**
> High Court Judge

"Each person has a different style of functioning; I have worked in my style. The next Justice who will be assigned the case will have his own style. The work that I did in six months, if they take 60 years also I have nothing to say," the judge told pressmen while leaving the High Court on Friday, adding that he would not resign.

Justice Gangopadhyay was a lawyer at the High Court before being appointed an Additional Judge in May 2018 and elevated as a permanent Judge in July 2020. He graduated from Calcutta University's Hazra Law College and did his schooling from Kolkata's Mitra Institution. As an advocate he was known among his peers for handling briefs related to education, particularly the West Bengal School Service Commission, the recruitment agency that is at the centre of the controversy in the jobs scam.

His judgments

In several of his judgments in the scam case, he has directed investigation agencies to file FIRs and question the accused, including Ministers, by midnight. Not only did he order investigations by Central agencies but also questioned their tardy pace and asked them to apprehend the "real culprits". Several of his orders have led to the arrest of key officials, including Trinamool MLAs and a former Minister.

The State government has been forced to come out with a list of the actual marks and manipulated marks of candidates who participated in different recruitment tests between 2014 and 2020.

Over 4,000 illegal appointments have also been set aside by him, prompting job aspirants protesting against the scam to put up posters in his support.

The Trinamool leadership has on a number of occasions publicly targeted Justice Gangopadhyay. After cases relating to the jobs scam were assigned to a different Bench, Trinamool leaders took to social media expressing happiness, referring to the judge as "comrade" and urging him to join politics. However, the Opposition parties termed the developments "unfortunate".

During the interview, Justice Gangopadhyay had said he wanted to be remembered for his judgments.

Mukhtar Ansari, brother get jail term in kidnapping, murder case

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

An MP-MLA court in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur on Saturday convicted jailed criminal-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari in a murder and kidnapping case. The court sentenced him to 10 years in prison and imposed a fine of ₹5 lakh.

Ansari's elder brother and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) Lok Sabha member Afzal Ansari has also been convicted in the same case and sentenced to four years in prison. Afzal is set to lose his Lok Sabha membership, as any member convicted for two years or more is automatically disqualified.

The trial took place under the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act in which the duo was booked for their involvement in the murder of BJP MLA Krishnanand Rai.

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Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-1206/04/2021 / 12894 , dated : 27.04.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

1. Name of the Work : Improvement of Surge Protection embankment - cum - Coastal Road, Phase-B (Balance Work) at Paradeep, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha (S3 & S4).
2. Estimated Cost : Rs.618.00 Lakh & Rs.1327.86 Lakh.
3. Period of Completion : 03 (Three) & 04 (Four) Calendar months.
4. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid ID/Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	Bid ID /Tender Reference No. P&C/EST/E-14/2023-24	08.05.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	29.05.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** and **www.idco.in.**

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-390 OIPR-14003/11/0024/2324

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
DISTRICT BARMER

F.No. 239 Dated 26/4/2023

Invited applications under young Interns Program (YIP)-2023 for District Barmer

The Government of Rajasthan is seeking applications from the willing and talented youth for Young Interns Program (YIP)-2023. These interns will be provided opportunity to work with the district administration in the implementation of projects of Government of Rajasthan.
The applications will be accepted through hard copy.The applications will be opened from 29-04-2023 and shall close on 04-05-2023 at 11:59 P.M.
The applications form, Eligibility criteria, procedure for selection, stipend and other details are available at the district website-barmer.rajasthan.gov.in and also on the websites www.statistics.rajasthan.gov.in and www.yip.rajasthan.gov.in.
This is purely an internship program and does not provide any type of employment or guarantee for any employment in future.

(Lokbandhu)
District Collector and
District Magistrate

DIPR/C/6305

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA
Deemed To Be University
(Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
Jorawar Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur-302002 (Rajasthan)
Website: www.nia.nic.in

VACANCY NOTIFICATION NO. 1/2023
For National Institute of Ayurveda, Panchkula (Haryana)

Applications in the Prescribed Format are invited for 16 Posts of Assistant Professor in different Subjects, 1 Post of Accountant, 2 Posts of Medical Officer, 1 Post of Nursing Officer and 1 Post of Pharmacist (All By Direct Recruitment) and 1 Post of Administrative Officer and 1 Post of Matron (By Deputation). These Posts are for the new upcoming National Institute of Ayurveda at Panchkula (Haryana), under this Institute. Details of the Posts, Last Date and Application Format etc. are available in the Website of the Institute: **www.nia.nic.in**

Dated: 28-04-2023

(PROF. A RAMA MURTHY)
REGISTRAR I/C

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 18 & 19 /2023-24/SE/PHC/MVPA, WSS TO NEDUMKANDAM, PAMPADUMPARA, UPPUTHARA ELAPPARA (PART) AND ARAKULAM (PART) PANCHAYATHS IN IDUKKI DISTRICT -(1) Supplying and Laying Distribution System and Providing FHTCs in Upputhara, Elappara (part) and Arakkulam (part) Panchayaths in Idukki District (2) Providing and laying CWGMs, CWPM, construction of SPH, 6.5LL GLSR in Upputhara and 0.65 LL GLSR in Ambalamedu. - Pipeline Work. **EMD** : Rs. 5,00,000/- each, **Tender fee** : Rs. 16,540 (18 %GST)/- each, **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 08-05-2023 04:00:pm, **Phone** : 04852835637, **Website** : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

KWA-JB-GL-6-168-2023-24

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LTD.
(TW Wing)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742336 FAX: (0291) 2745259

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Short term Techno-commercial and Price e-Bids are invited for **Operation and Maintenance of identified 33/11 KV Grid Sub-Stations in respect of various Sub-Divisions of Jodhpur Discom for 2 years** against **TNTW-668 with UBN No. (JVV2324SLOB00100).**
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening etc are available on our website at **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl** and also at **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** The bidders, in their own interest are requested to read very carefully the tender documents before submitting the bid only through on line on website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**
Note :- Interested bidders please note that in future any other notices /information regarding amendment /corrigendum/addendum/dates extension of bid submission etc for above tender will only be available on website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, sppp.rajasthan.gov.in energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl**

Raj.Samwad/C/23/1527 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (TW)

बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
DISTRICT DHOLPUR

F.No. 597 Dated 27/4/2023

Invited applications under young Interns Program (YIP)-2023 for District Dholpur

The Government of Rajasthan is seeking applications from the willing and talented youth for Young Interns Program (YIP)-2023. These interns will be provided opportunity to work with the district administration in the implementation of projects of Government of Rajasthan.
The applications will be accepted through hard copy and also through the e-mail. The applications will be opened from 28 April 2023 (Commencing Date) and shall close on 5 May 2023 (Closing date) at 11:59 P.M.
The applications form, Eligibility criteria, procedure for selection, stipend and other details are available at the district website ..... and also on the websites www.statistics.rajasthan.gov.in and www.yip.rajasthan.gov.in.
This is purely an internship program and does not provide any type of employment or guarantee for any employment in future.

District Collector and
District Magistrate

DIPR/C/6245

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Adv. No.07/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24, NIT No.11/SE-III/2023-24 Dated: 29.04.2023
Name of the works : (1) Improvements to Pushkarini at Sri PAT, Tiruchanoor (Civil Works). Amount Rs. 900.00 Lakhs, Time for Completion 6 Months
Note: For full details log on to the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in/ or http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in

Roc No.PR4/13953/Adv. No.34/PRO/2023,DT.29.04.2023 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
4th Floor, Felicity Square Building, Opp. AG Office, Statue, Thiruvananthapuram - 695001, +91 - 0471 - 4010374

CIN U75302KL2017SGC05027
E- TENDER NOTICE

Request for proposal (RFP) for Selection of System Integrator for Implementing Passenger Information System and Surveillance system for the selected buses in Trivandrum District

Sl. No.	Name of Project	E-Tender ID	Bid Submission Last Date
1	Request for proposal (RFP) for Selection of System Integrator for Implementing Passenger Information System and Surveillance system for the selected buses in Trivandrum District	2023_SCTLT_570455_1	15.05.2023 03:00 PM

Date and Time of opening Price Bid: To be intimated later
All the documents and details are available on the E procurement website.
Bids are only accepted online on the website **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**

(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

The Kerala Minerals & Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam,-691583
Phone : +91-476-2651215 to 217, E-mail : contact@kmml.com,URL :www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details, please visit E- Tendering Portal https:/etenders.kerala.gov.in.or www.kmml.com

No	Tender ID	Items
1.	2023_KMML_572158_1	For the supply of PTFE Lined Plug Valves
2.	2023_KMML_572630_1	For the supply of Floculant/Indfloc 442/Flomin 4913k or Equivalent-14546 Kg
3.	2023_KMML_571770_1	For Fabrication & supply of Recycle Gas Cooler
4.	2023_KMML_572110_1	For the supply and application of Brick Acid Resistant for Digester
5.	2023_KMML_573915_1	For Iron Oxide Brick making plant in KMML

Chavara. 29.04.2023 Sd/ Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PPP) P.W.D. RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR

No. F7(407)Part-IV/SHA-PPP/2021-22/D-98
Date: 20/04/2023

SHORT TERM NIT No. 03/2023-24
INVITATION OF RFP FOR TOLL COLLECTION

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan, Public Works Department, Rajasthan invites RFP for Toll Collection for ADB funded Highways **Ajeetgarh-Chala section of SH-13, Bidasar–Nokha section of SH-20 and Singhana-Buhana-Haryana Border section of SH-13B under RSHIP Tranche-1, Package-04/II** in specified format.
The RFP document can be viewed or / and downloaded from website: https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in from 21.04.2023. Any further amendments to the RFP document shall only be made available on above websites as such prospective Bidders are advised to visit the above websites for the same.

UBN No: PWD2324SLOB00952
Email: aceppp.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in (Avinash Sharma)
Tel: +91-141-2223547 Addl. Chief Engineer (PPP)
DIPR/C/6090 PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipur

CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJINAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (Drainage)

Tel.No (0240) 2333536-40
Fax.No.(0240)-2331213

Address: Executive Engineer (Drainage) Municipal Corporation Chh.Sambhajinagar,
Head office: Town Hall Pin 431001
E-Tender Call AMC (For Help):
Cell No. 9764999592

No/AMC/DyEng/Drainage/ 21/2023. Date: 24/4/2023

Sr.No	Work Name	Last Date of Tender Submission
1	Providing and Laying Underground Drainage System for Satara-Deolai Area At. Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar (Funded Under Amrut 2.0 Scheme) (Amount put to tender: Rs 231,25,59,811/-)	08/06/2023

Note :- 1. For the above started work detailed tender is available on web site- www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(Drainage)
Municipal Corporation
Chh.Sambhajinagar

जा क्र/मनपा/उपअभि/जनि/२१/२०२३

INBRIEF

No religious symbols during laser show at Rangghar: ASI

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has agreed to withdraw the use of religious symbols from a laser show to be projected on the iconic Rangghar in Assam during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 100th *Mann ki Baat* programme on Sunday. The ASI-protected Rangghar is one of the oldest surviving amphitheatres in Asia and a structure of Ahom pride built in the 18th century. "The Guwahati-based superintending archaeologist, N.K. Swain, has promised that the ASI would withdraw religious symbols from the laser show linked to the *Mann ki Baat* programme," Akhil Gogoi, the local MLA and chief of Raijor Dal posted on social media.

Ex-BJP MLA held over Ram Navami violence in Bihar

Jawahar Prasad, former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) legislator from Sasaram of Bihar, was arrested late on Friday night in connection with a case related to the communal violence in the town following a Ram Navami procession on March 31. He was sent to judicial custody for two weeks. Speaking on the case following the arrest, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "Those found involved, irrespective of their party affiliations, would be arrested." "A local court has issued non-bailable arrest warrant against 28 people, including the former MLA in the case," Rohtas Superintendent of Police Binit Kumar said.

'Research vessels operating in neighbourhood a challenge'

Noting that Chinese research vessels, which are free to operate in international waters, have the ability to track and collect electronic signals, Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar on Saturday said that it becomes a challenge when such vessels in the region operate too close to areas of Indian national interest. India has to work with its neighbours and other friendly nations to convey these challenges and keep a close watch, he added. "We are keeping a very close watch in the Indian Ocean region.. We put lot of effort on surveillance, on maritime domain awareness... Our effort is to know who is present and what are they up to," the Navy chief said.

Bombay HC suspends MLA's sentence in 2017 assault case

The Bombay High Court recently suspended Achalpur MLA Bachchu Kadu's one-year sentence after being convicted for attempting to assault a public servant in 2017. On July 24, 2017, Mr. Kadu was booked for abusing and attempting to assault Nashik Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Krishna and on March 8 this year, Nashik Sessions Judge V.S. Kulkarni sentenced him to one year in jail. On April 6, a Bench of Justice Bharati Dangre, while hearing an appeal by Mr. Kadu seeking suspension of the sentence, said, "Since the sentence is minuscule in nature, pending the appeal by this court, it deserves to be suspended."

SUDOKU

		1		6			5	
					7			
4	5			2			6	9
	9	3	4				7	
	6						1	
	4				8	9	3	
6	7			8			9	1
			2					
	3			1		2		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS5784 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	7	6	2	9	1	4	5	3
4	1	3	7	6	5	9	8	2
5	2	9	4	8	3	6	7	1
2	5	1	6	3	9	8	4	7
9	3	4	8	1	7	2	6	5
6	8	7	5	2	4	1	3	9
1	6	2	3	5	8	7	9	4
7	9	5	1	4	6	3	2	8
3	4	8	9	7	2	5	1	6

A push for rehab instead of jail time

While enforcement agencies are targeting supply chains, the Social Justice Ministry is running awareness campaigns to treat narcotic drug users as victims and not criminals; the government is also working to increase number of rehabilitation centres and collaborating with faith organisations

Abhinay Lakshman
Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

As the Union government debates decriminalising consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, it is likely to bring in a policy where addicts and users will have to submit themselves before treatment centres and declare themselves as such in order to escape criminal prosecution.

In the past two years, the number of vulnerable districts (for drug use) have gone up from 272 to 372, with Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Goa, Chandigarh, Puducherry and Tripura having 100% districts marked as vulnerable. These are followed by Uttarakhand and Punjab, where 92.3% and 86.95% of the districts have been marked vulnerable, respectively.

According to the substance usage survey conducted by the Social Justice Ministry through the AIIMS in 2018, alcohol had emerged as the most used substance among adults at 17.1% prevalence. Apart from this, the survey showed that cannabis use had the highest prevalence at 3.3%, followed by opioids (2.1%), sedatives (1.21%), inhalants (0.58%) and cocaine (0.11%).

Currently, under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, the consumption of any narcotic drugs or psychotropic substance may attract a jail term of up to one year and/or fines up to ₹20,000.

As of now, while enforcement agencies are targeting supply chains, the Social Justice Ministry is concurrently running country-wide awareness and rehabilitation campaigns to treat users and addicts like victims and not criminals.

Citing examples of countries that have followed the total decriminalisation path, a senior government official argued that it was an "ineffective policy". The official said that under the scheme that is being considered, consumers who are caught must submit themselves to treatment facilities and can only be back into society once cleared by the rehabilitation centre.

For minors who are caught consuming illegal substances, the onus will be on the parents to declare their wards as users or addicts and check them into an appropriate facility.

Anticipating an influx of users once this option becomes a reality, the Social Justice Ministry is now preparing to scale up the network of 508 rehabilitation and de-addiction facilities it supports under the campaign for drug demand reduction – Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

Message to youth: Peer-led campaigns can be effective in curbing the use of narcotic substances. AP

The centres currently operational include about 340 integrated rehabilitation centres for addicts (inpatient care), about 50 community-based peer-led intervention centres, 71 outreach and drop-in centres (out-patient care), and about 46 addiction treatment facilities (advanced medical care in government hospitals).

Not all 372 districts have one of each of these, with officials explaining that the level of treatment varies from drug to drug and depends on the level of dependence as well. "Sometimes, discussions and counselling like Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are enough, not all require medical intervention," one official said.

On the one hand, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment intends to increase the number of rehabilitation centres it is directly supporting – like addiction treatment facilities, 125 of which are expected to be launched this year. On the other, it is aggressively pursuing tie-ups with spiritual and faith-based organisations.

Integrated approach

"The department is looking to tie-up with spiritual and faith-based organisations or any organisations, including private ones, that have their own hospitals, educational institutes, counselling facilities, etc. We want to be able to use these facilities to boost the drug demand reduction campaign," a government official said.

In March this year, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Brahma Kumaris of Mount Abu to "spread the message of Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan among the youth, women, students, etc.". This week, the department signed a similar MoU with Art of Living, the NGO run by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, with sources adding that one more MoU is likely to be signed in the coming weeks with another spiritual and faith-based organisation popular in the south of India.

Apart from addiction treatment facilities, most other centres run under the NMBA are supported by the government but operated by NGOs or voluntary organisations.

However, some of the NGOs running these centres have said that the government still needs to address a lot of problems they are facing currently.

Awadhraj Singh, president of the Raj Foundation Sansthan, an NGO running rehabilitation and intervention centres in Rajasthan, said, "The guidelines give us just 30 days to treat someone who is addicted to smack for instance. That is nowhere near enough and, very often, we see people relapsing and coming back to us. Usually, it takes at least five months to treat someone who is addicted to smack. Now, we just ask the families to make sure the patients are at home for at least one more month after discharge."

He added that many integrated rehabilitation centres for addicts have just one government doctor each, who are not able to give their undivided attention to patients and treat them.

"Across two IRCAs, call-ins and walk-ins put together, about 70 people visit every day. A start would be to change the guidelines and give us more time to treat people," Mr. Singh suggested.

Fresh batch of 365 Indians brought back from Sudan

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India on Saturday brought back home a fresh batch of 365 people under its mission to evacuate stranded citizens from strife-torn Sudan.

"More Indians come back home under #OperationKaveri. 365 passengers have just landed in New Delhi," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar tweeted.

The return of the fresh batch of Indians came a day after 754 people arrived in India in two batches under the evacuation mission.

With this, a total of 1,725 Indians have been brought back from Sudan, according to official data.

They were brought back home from the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah where India set up a transit camp for the evacuees.

The first batch of 360 evacuees returned to New Delhi by a commercial plane on Wednesday.

Homecoming: Indians evacuated from Sudan arriving at the international airport in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

The second batch of 246 Indian evacuees arrived in Mumbai by a C17 Globemaster aircraft of the IAF on Thursday.

Under Operation Kaveri, India has been taking its citizens on buses from conflict zones of Khartoum and other troubled areas to Port Sudan from where they are being taken to the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah in Indian Air Force's heavy-lift transport aircraft and Indian Navy's ships. From Jeddah, the Indians are being brought back home in either commercial flight or IAF's aircraft.

'Quarantine facilities being set up for returnees'

Necessary quarantine facilities are being arranged at transit junctures in mission mode for incoming passengers from Sudan, the Health Ministry has said. It said that 117 passengers who have arrived so far have been quarantined as they had not been vaccinated against yellow fever. All passengers will be released after seven days if they remain asymptomatic, the Ministry added.

Pak. attracting poor, working-class into terrorism, says Army

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

The Army on Saturday said Pakistan was trying to attract the poor and working-class people in the Rajouri-Poonch sector, home to a large number of Muslim Gujjars and Bakerwals, "for terrorist activities with money".

"After the abolition of Article 370, Pakistan does not want peace and government formation in J&K. That is why, Pakistan keeps on creating various conspiracies to mislead the youth of this region by giving training in terrorist camps and changing the thinking of youth through wrong propaganda," the Army said.

The Army statement came a day after the Jammu and Kashmir Police pointed at local support for militants who attacked an Army truck in Poonch on April 20, which left five soldiers dead.

"Pakistan never wants an atmosphere of peace or harmony in J&K. Pakistan always tries to spread unrest, disharmony, and communal disturbances by supplying drugs and intoxicants to youth of this region," the Army spokesman added.

"The people of J&K should understand the heinous and nefarious acts of Pakistan and protest such activities on a large scale."

'Need to educate'

He said there was a need to educate local people "in a proper direction". "In the recent attack on an Army truck in Poonch, a few names of a community came to the fore, which is unbelievable. Hence, the people of this area should keep away from such type of incidents and activities... If someone is roaming suspiciously in the region, people should immediately inform and assist the Army and foil any major incident like Poonch," the Army said.

Mehbooba seeks probe into Poonch terror attack

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti on Saturday demanded "a thorough probe" into both the Poonch attack and the death of a civilian in security forces' custody.

"We lost five soldiers in the unfortunate incident in Poonch [on April 20]... Recently, former J&K Governor Satyapal Malik suggested that attempts were made to hide the reality of the Pulwama attack in 2019. This time, we need to reach to the root of the incident and establish how such an incident took place in the Army-dominated and secure region of Bhimbher Gali in Poonch," Ms. Mufti said in a press conference.

Ms. Mufti also demanded an investigation into the death of a local, Mukhtar Shah from Bhata Dhurian, while in custody.

Safety concerns over e-pharma put Centre in a spot

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Union Health Ministry sources say that they are in no mood to give the e-pharma platforms a "free run'', calling the move far too dangerous.

"Consumer safety is our primary focus. Unlimited accessibility to medicines through e-pharmacy, sale of sub-standard, habit-forming medicines [like sedatives, mood-altering drugs], profiling of patients and buyers, and illegal data collection are the main concerns," said the source, adding that this dynamic industry must be handled with care.

A cautious Health Ministry has maintained this despite a rap on its knuckle by a parliamentary panel asking it to finalise the draft e-pharmacy rules and implement them without further delay. "Vigilance wins over the perceived convenience and economics of the e-pharma market," the source said.

The parliamentary panel also expressed concern over the possible misuse of online pharmacies in the absence of regulation and mentioned that there are concerns over the distribution of illegal or unethical medicines, or outdated, substituted, or counterfeit medications.

Ever-rising market

According to a report - 'E-pharmacy Market in India 2022-2027' - compared to its physical counterparts, e-pharmacy has emerged in recent years as a superior and more practical strategy for addressing consumer problems and delivering excellent customer solutions.

In India, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940 regulates the import, manufacturing and distribution of drugs. AFP

"In 2021, the market for online pharmacies was worth ₹25.50 billion. It is anticipated to expand at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 22.20% from 2022 to 2027 when it is expected to reach ₹89.47 billion," the report added.

The DCGI had sent show-cause notices to 20-odd e-pharmacies for selling drugs that are not for retail sale

While there are talks in the Health Ministry about a complete ban on e-pharmacy, earlier this year, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) sent show-cause notices to 20-odd e-pharmacies including Tata 1mg, NetMeds, Practo etc. stating that there was sale of drugs that weren't allowed for retail sale and lack of proper prescription.

The Hindu contacted some of the e-pharma businesses, but no response was received. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940 regulates the import, manufacturing and distribution of drugs in India.

E-pharma business insiders maintain that shutting down business doesn't help. "Stringent laws and strong e-pharmacy code of conduct will help this market," they say.

The Indian Medical Association (IMA), in its white paper on online pharmacies, said that drug abuse, misuse, self-medication, access to children, no place or system to evaluate adverse drug reactions, no clarity on drug storage conditions and no system of immediate recall in case of drugs are problems that the industry comes with. "These need to be addressed,'' it advised.

Reservations for minorities, a tale of yore

Assemblies of the pre-Independence era had reservations for Hindus, Muslims and Indian Christians where the reserved seats were proportionate to their population. In the Mysore State, it was Chamarajendra Wadiyar who first constituted the Mysore Representative Assembly in 1881. His successor Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar introduced the Legislative Council and constituted a committee for Constitutional reforms in 1938. Most of the proposals of the committee were to make the Assembly more representative for rural people, minorities and special interest groups such as planters and miners.

One of the proposals was the exclusive reservation of 11 seats for women of which one was to be reserved for a Muslim woman, and another from the Depressed Class.

The Statue of Maharaja Chamarajendra Wadiyar in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Seat-wise performance

The table shows the vote shares (in %) secured by the Congress and BJP in reserved seats and general seats in the past four Assembly elections in Karnataka. In 2018, Congress fared well in general seats and SC seats while the BJP performed better in ST seats

Party	Year	GEN	SC	ST
Cong.	2004	35.6	32.7	49.0
	2008	35.3	31.1	37.1
	2013	36.4	35.9	40.4
	2018	37.8	39.1	37.9
BJP	2004	28.7	25.3	44.3
	2008	33.5	35.2	35.7
	2013	20.4	19.9	13.4
	2018	36.2	34.8	39.9

Source: Political career tracker for candidates, Trivedi Centre for Political Data, Ashoka University

Poll drive: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi along with party candidates at a roadshow in Ballari

Promoting a more inclusive poll process

The Election Commission has been taking up initiatives to ensure the inclusion of trans people in the electoral process. It has chosen a transgender person, Manjamma Jogati, as a poll icon to motivate the community to come out to vote. It has also roped in transwomen to paint murals on voter awareness.

Congress is abusing me like they abused Babasaheb and Savarkar. I feel honoured for being treated at par with them

NARENDRA MODI
Prime Minister of India

'I tried to get Shettar ticket, but BJP leadership had other plans'

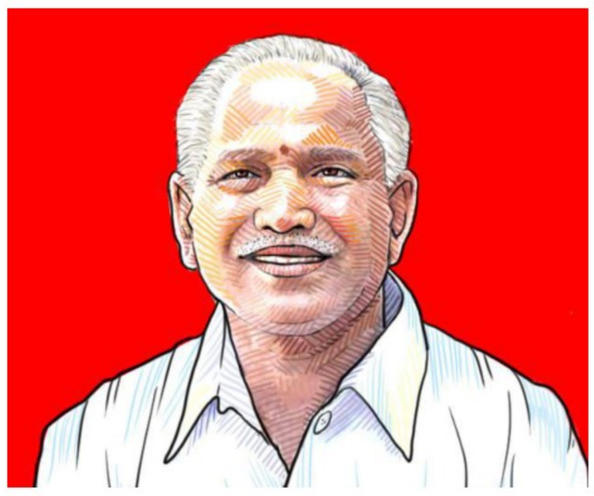
The former Chief Minister of Karnataka and BJP stalwart talks about his role in campaigning, the election manifesto and of recent allegations against the party. The BJP, he says, is seeking the people's mandate foregrounding the programmes that the Narendra Modi government gave to Karnataka apart from those implemented by the Basavaraj Bommai dispensation in the State

INTERVIEW

B.S. Yediyurappa

Kumar Buradikatti

B.S. Yediyurappa stepped down as Chief Minister of Karnataka to make way for Basavaraj Bommai on July 26, 2021, with tears in his eyes. Though projected as a "voluntary" move, it was widely seen as part of an effort to shift the power centre in the State unit of the party away from the regional satrap and Lingayat strongman. However, since then, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Amit Shah have spared no opportunity to publicly acknowledge Mr. Yediyurappa's stature in Karnataka's politics and have made him member of the Central Parliamentary Board and central election committee of the party. Though he has announced his retirement from electoral politics, his son B.Y. Vijayendra was named BJP candidate from his old constituency, Shikaripura, in Shivamogga district in south Karnataka. Mr. Yediyurappa's role ahead of the Assembly election has come to be particularly highlighted after former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi, both Lingayats who constitute the traditional vote bank of the party, rebelled and joined the Congress after being denied ticket. Mr. Yediyurappa has been entrusted with the task of quelling rebellion and ensuring that Lingayat votes do not drift away from the BJP. The 80-year-old is currently busy touring north Karnataka districts where Lingayats are in large numbers. Excerpts:



The BJP is going into the election with senior leaders including former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar and former Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi having quit, alleging that the party was suppressing Lingayats by denying them ticket. What do you say about it as a community leader?

We had given every position and honour to Mr. Shettar, including that of Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly. If he had any grievances, he could have discussed with us. We had told him that party leadership was not ready to field him in the election for various reasons. We had asked him to enter national politics and become a Union Minister. We had also told him to field his wife in the election, if he was keen. Despite all these assurances, he quit the party. Similarly, we made Mr. Savadi a Member of the Legislative Council and then Deputy Chief Minister. You should know that he had completed only 10 months of the six-year MLC term. He might have been made Minister or given other positions. He left the party for selfish reasons and the people will teach him a lesson.

It is said that you personally tried very hard to ensure ticket for Mr. Shettar?

Yes, I put in all my effort. But, the party's central leadership had other plans. It did not give ticket to K.S. Eshwarappa, Mr. Shettar and many other leaders this time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had decided to give ticket to more young party workers.

There are strong allegations that B.L. Santosh is responsible for the rebellions in BJP. What is your opinion?

Such allegations have no value. As a full-timer, Mr. Santosh is working round-the-clock for strengthening the party. Unable to tolerate it, some are making such allegations.

At the fag end of the BJP government's tenure in the State, you scrapped the 4% reservation to Muslims and distributed it among the Lingayats and Vokkaligas. How does the move help the BJP in the election?

Scrapping the 4% reservation meant for Muslims and distributing 2% each to Lingayats and Vokkaligas, apart from increasing the reservation to other communities such as SCs and STs, will 100% help us. It is a historic decision and everybody is welcoming it. This will certainly help us in the election.

But the Lambani (Banjara) community is opposing your decision on internal reservations within the SCs. There were big protests in Shikaripura.

There is nothing serious in that. We have treated everyone equally and we will see that no injustice is meted out to anybody.

In the past 38 years, no ruling party has won the election with full majority and retained power in Karnataka. What do you say about this?

We will break that tradition. There can be no doubt that we are winning the election and returning to power.

The Congress is raising issues of corruption and inflation in a big way. What according to you are the major issues for this election?

We are talking of only development. We are seeking the people's mandate showing the programmes that the Narendra Modi government gave to Karnataka apart from those implemented by the Basavaraj Bommai government in the State. Our campaign is based on development. False propaganda carries no value. The allegations of 40% commission will backfire on those who are raising it. We will definitely form a government with a clear majority.

At the age of 80, you are touring the State for the election campaigning. Does your health permit it?

No problem at all. I am campaigning from morning to 9 p.m. I am getting a great welcome everywhere. The more people gather, the more I am working with enthusiasm.

You have fought many elections in your political career. In the past few elections, you led the party as its Chief Ministerial candidate. In this election, you are playing a very different role. How do you feel?

I resigned as Chief Minister voluntarily. Nobody pressured me. At a time when people were not ready to step down from a gram panchayat president's post, I resigned as Chief Minister. Not just that, I had declared that I would not contest any election anymore but work for the party. The people also accepted my decision.

Ahead of PM's election visit, a jumbo problem in Belur taluk

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses an election rally in Belur taluk of Hassan district on Sunday, there will be an unusual component to his security – an elephant watch and rapid response team. On Thursday, a herd of elephants inflicted serious injuries on a farmer from Kadegarje, just 20 km from the rally venue. The Forest Department has taken measures to avoid the movement of elephants in areas close to the venue of the Prime Minster's programme. "As of now, elephants are quite far from the venue. However, we cannot be sure of their movement. Our officers are on watch with the rapid response team and other supporting staff," K. Harish, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Hassan, told *The Hindu*.

Ahead of the PM's visit, residents of nearby villages have demanded that he pay attention to their problem. As many as 93 people have died in the district due to elephant attacks since 1986. There have also been thousands of incidents of crop damage. Though there have been many protests, there is no permanent solution in sight.

The Forest Department has, on many occasions, captured the problem-causing elephants and relocated them. However, people say that the selective capture of elephants will not resolve the issue.

Language as a central electoral issue in Belagavi has run its course

Political observers say that as Maratha votes are key in the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundary villages, the language issue has faded into oblivion making way for communal politics

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Earlier this month, the Maharashtra government announced the inclusion of 865 boundary villages of Karnataka in the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Health Scheme. Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shindhe said it would benefit both Marathi and Kannada speakers in these villages. However, three days later, when the Maharashtra government released the application form for the scheme, it made the applicants testify that they were Marathi speakers from Karnataka. Kannada organisations called it a "clandestine attempt" by Maharashtra to collect evidence for its claim that a large number of Marathi speakers reside in Belagavi and other border districts.

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai spoke against the move and warned that if Maharashtra continued on such a path, Karnataka would be constrained to extend benefits of its social security schemes to Kannada speakers in Maharashtra. At that point, it seemed as if the language issue would be the focus of the Assembly election in these parts. But now, language seems to have faded into oblivion even for a language-centric party such as the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES). "A simple reason is that all national parties want Maratha votes," said Srinivas Talukar, a Kannada activist contesting as the JD(S) candidate from Belagavi South.

Emotive issue: Campaigning on for Karnataka Assembly election in Belagavi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Statue drama

Rajkumar Kamble, Kannada Horata Samiti leader, points to the attempts by MLAs such as Lakshmi Hebbalkar (Congress) and Ramesh Jarkiholi (BJP) to claim credit for unveiling the Chatrapati Shivaji statue at Rajhamsgad fort at Yallur village in the Belagavi Rural constituency.

While Ms. Hebbalkar claimed it as a personal achievement, Mr. Jarkiholi argued it was a government project. In the end, the statue was inaugurated twice in a week, underlining how leaders are competing to show that they are more pro-Maratha than others. Mr. Kamble accused politicians of trying to appease the Marathi vote bank. "Political leaders in Belagavi are masters of doublespeak. Their opinions about the language issue are different during elections and at other times," said Ashok Chandaragi, convener of Kannada associations in Belagavi district. This, he says, also reflects a larger shift – the erosion of language as a politically significant narrative. "At one time, MES had five MLAs in Belagavi district. But now there are none. Its strength has reduced even in the Belagavi City Corporation where it held an upper hand for decades," he said. Writer and political analyst D.S. Chougale feels that language as an electoral issue in Belagavi has run out of steam. "Language being a non-issue in this election may be good for Belagavi. But it is being replaced by communal issues," he said. According to Professor Chougale, infighting among MES leaders and lack of focus on development issues, are the reasons for the decline of the party.

Barred entry into constituency, candidate finds a workaround in augmented reality tools

Vinay Kulkarni, the Congress candidate in Dharwad Rural constituency, has deployed interactive videos through a Web app for his campaign

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Vinay Kulkarni, the Congress candidate in the Dharwad Rural constituency, has adopted augmented reality (AR) technology and deployed interactive videos through an AR Web app to boost his campaign, as he was barred by courts from entering the district in connection with a case. The 56-year-old is one among the many candidates, in the Karnataka Assembly election this time, who have been using technology in their campaign.

This latest tool works on a browser-based application and supplements the traditional methods of campaigning through videos, images and audios that are pushed through WhatsApp and other social media platforms. The technology helps augment the real environment on a smartphone camera view with digital information such as videos, images and texts that provide an immersive experience to the viewers.

"The trials were conducted two weeks ago, and the electorate liked the novelty in the campaign. After its success, some major politicians, who are unable to give time to their constituencies, are also seeking help," co-founder and chief technology officer of Bengaluru-based Preksh Innovations, Sharath Chandrashekar, told *The Hindu*. The app was developed in-house and no third party software had been used, he said, claiming that Mr. Kulkarni was the first politician to deploy AR in his campaign in the State.

Virtual campaign: Shivaleela Kulkarni on the way to file nomination papers on behalf of her husband. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Reaching out

Mr. Kulkarni, a two-time legislator, said, "I am able to reach the people remotely through a different medium and I am able to connect with them better." Novel ways of campaigning have become a necessity for the Congress candidate, who was earlier arrested and is an accused in the murder of BJP zilla panchayat member Yogeeshgouda Goudar in June 2016. With the Supreme Court having refused him entry to Dharwad district, Mr. Kulkarni has been camping mainly in the neighbouring Kittur. His wife Shivaleela manages the campaign in the constituency while he has been using social media to reach out to the electorate through pre-recorded videos and video calls.

Mr. Sharath said that though they considered using 3D models that have been used in U.S. election campaigns, they settled for AR since loading a 3D model would take time in remote areas. "The AR videos of Mr. Kulkarni can be accessed through a web link or by scanning the QR code available in the campaign paraphernalia. This provides a personal touch that the traditional methods cannot give," he said.

PORT MORESBY

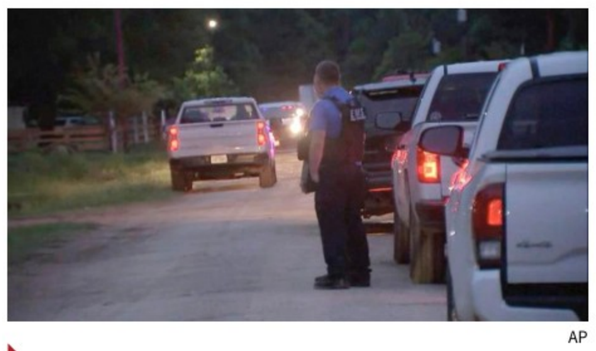
Joe Biden to meet 18 Pacific leaders in Papua New Guinea

AP

U.S. President Joe Biden will meet 18 leaders from the South Pacific when he visits Papua New Guinea in May as the U.S. and China vie for influence. Papua New Guinea Foreign Minister Justin Tkatchenko said Mr. Biden would attend bilateral talks with his hosts and is "also having a meeting with the 18 Pacific Island leaders". AFP

WASHINGTON

Gunman on the run after five Hondurans shot dead in Texas



AP

The police were searching for a gunman believed to have shot dead five Hondurans including an eight-year-old child at a house in Texas in the U.S. on Saturday. Officials believe the gunman had been firing his AR-15 style gun in a neighbouring yard when the victims asked him to stop, as they were trying to get a baby to sleep. AFP.

SEOUL

South Korea-U.S. plan risks 'serious danger', says Kim Jong-un's sister

AP

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's powerful sister, Kim Yo-jong, has warned that a U.S.-South Korean pact aimed at strengthening deterrence against Pyongyang would only lead to "more serious danger". Both nations warned that the North would face a nuclear response should it use its own arsenal. AFP

KABUL

Afghan women urge against foreign recognition of Taliban

AFP

A group of Afghan women protested in Kabul, defying a crackdown on dissent to urge foreign nations not to formally recognise the Taliban government ahead of a UN summit next week. Around 25 women took part in the march ahead of a summit in Doha that the UN says will discuss a "durable way forward" for the country. AFP

Poland seizes Russian high school building in Warsaw

Russia terms the actions a 'violation of Vienna's convention of diplomatic relations'; the spat over the 1970s building, nicknamed the 'spy nest' by Warsaw citizens, has been going on for a year

Agence France-Presse
WARSAW

Poland on Saturday said it had seized a high school building near Moscow's embassy in Warsaw meant for the children of diplomats, a move the Russian envoy called "illegal".

The spat over the 1970s multi-storey building, nicknamed the "spy nest" by Warsaw citizens, has been going on for a year.

"This building belongs to the Warsaw City Hall," Polish Foreign Ministry spokesman Lukasz Jasina told AFP, adding that the move followed a bailiff's order.

The spokesman for the municipality was unavailable for comment.

Wrap up: Men carry a bag and a box from a former Russian high school in Warsaw in Poland on Saturday. AFP

Poland says there is a huge disparity in the number of diplomatic buildings each had in the other country.

"This is an illegal act. An intrusion on a diplomatic facility," Moscow's envoy, Sergei Andreyev, told the RIA Novosti news agency.

Mr. Andreyev said this was a "violation of Vienna's convention of diplomatic relations".

"Of course, there will be a reaction," Mr. Andreyev said, adding that he did not want to give further details and that a decision will be made in Moscow.

"We consider the school by the embassy to be part of our diplomatic mission," he said, saying teachers and staff lived on the territory of the building.

Mr. Andreyev said the school will continue to work in a different part of the Russian embassy's premises.

Meanwhile, Russia's Foreign Minister said the move "goes beyond the framework of civilised interstate communication and will not remain without our harsh reaction and consequences for Poland's interests in Russia.

Ukraine city occupied by Russia under 'intense' fire

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russian occupational authorities in southern Ukraine said on Saturday that Ukrainian forces were subjecting the city of Novaya Kakhovka to "intense artillery fire" that had cut off electricity.

The shelling came the same day that authorities in Russian-annexed Crimea reported a drone attack on a fuel depot and as Kyiv prepares for a widely expected counter-offensive against Moscow's forces.

Novaya Kakhovka is in the part of the southern Kherson region that Russia controls.

The city lies upstream of the Dnipro River from Kherson, the regional capital from which Russia withdrew last November.

"Novaya Kakhovka and

A huge fire at a fuel depot in Sevastopol which the authorities say was the result of a drone attack on Saturday. AFP

settlements around the district are under very intense artillery fire from the armed forces of Ukraine," the city's Russian-installed authorities said on Telegram.

No power

It added that the artillery fire left the city "without power".

The Moscow-installed authorities urged people in the city "to keep calm" and said that work to restore power will start "after the shelling ends".

Novaya Kakhovka fell to Russian forces on the first day of their offensive in Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

It is home to the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, a strategic target capture in the first hours of Moscow's offensive.

'Pakistan's peace efforts are not a sign of weakness'

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir said on Saturday that the armed forces were fully capable of defending the country, and its "efforts for peace should never be taken as a sign of weakness".

Gen. Munir was addressing the passing-out parade of cadets at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA), Kakul, in the Abbottabad district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

His remarks came after senior journalist Hamid Mir claimed recently in a TV show that former Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa, in a meeting with 20-25 journalists in 2021, stated that "the Pakistan Army was not capable of combat".

Prachanda thanks China for aiding health sector

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' on Saturday voiced his appreciation to China for its assistance and cooperation in the upgradation of the country's health sector.

Addressing the handing over ceremony of the completion of the upgradation and reconstruction of the China-aided Civil Service Hospital at New Baneshwor in Kathmandu, Mr. Prachanda expressed hope that with expanded and upgraded infrastructure and facilities, the hospital will be able to cater to patients who are in need of better treatment and services.

"I would like to thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for supporting this hospital and this particular project of upgradation and reconstruction," he said.

"I see much potential for this hospital as well as other hospitals too to develop them as the centre of excellence to provide world-class medical treatment with the support of our friendly countries like China," Mr. Prachanda said.

Pointing out the friendly relations between the two countries, Mr. Prachanda said, "Nepal and China cherish a long history of friendly, cordial, and cooperative relations." Friendship, mutual respect, understanding and appreciation of each other's legitimate interests, concerns and sensitivities underpin our good neighbourly relations, added the Prime Minister.

Uzbekistan holds referendum on new Constitution that puts human rights at the forefront

Stanly Johny
TASHKENT

'Not just your car, this Constitution is also yours', reads a message on electronic screens at the public buildings in Tashkent. It also asks the voters not to forget to cast their ballots on Sunday when Uzbekistan, the landlocked Central Asian country of 35 million, holds its third referendum since it became independent in 1991 following the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

In the referendum, the voters would be asked if they support rewriting the Constitution. The new draft, which would rewrite over 60% of the current charter, promises more freedoms, better social protection, gender equality, and abolition of death penalty, among others.

"The new Constitution is defining Uzbekistan as a sovereign, democratic, rule of law, social and secular state. All changes are based on the idea that human rights and freedoms are paramount," President Shaukat Mirziyoyev told an investment conference here on Thursday. He added that the new charter would better the investment and business environment of the country.

Citizen first

According to Uzbekistan's Constitutional Commission, it received more than 2,20,000 proposals from citizens during the drafting process. The amendments represent "a transformation of the new Uzbekistan", said Jahongir Shirinov, Chairman of the Legislative Chamber Committee responsible for the constitutional reforms. "Where once the state came first, now the citizen comes first, a profound shift from our recent history," he said in a statement jointly released by the Oliy Majlis, the parliament, and the Constitutional Commission.

Shaukat Mirziyoyev

Election Commission officials said all arrangements have been made for a free vote which would be held in the presence of international observers. In Bukhara, the ancient city in south central Uzbekistan, a polling station has been set up in the State University. Election Commission officials told visiting journalists that the voting would take place in the presence of the representatives of all five recognised political parties in the country as well as international observers, media and civil society representatives. Bukhara city alone has 84 voting stations.

"The new Constitution has been in the making for months. A lot of preparation has gone into it, and a lot of public interaction was held to gauge the needs of the people of Uzbekistan," said Manish Prabhat, India's Ambassador in Tashkent. "It seeks to make Uzbekistan a more social and welfare state where the social protection of the common citizen is enhanced. A lot of thought has been given to vulnerable families and people in need of education, medicare, etc. There's greater decentralisation of power."

Protracted rule

However, critics say the Constitution would extend President Mirziyoyev's rule by at least 14 more years. Mr. Mirziyoyev who came to power in 2016 after his predecessor Islam Karimov died while in office, is currently serving his second term (and the last under the current Constitution). If the new Constitution is adopted (which is almost certain as there is no evident campaign against the reforms), the presidential term would be extended to seven years with a two-consecutive term limit. Legal experts say Mr. Mirziyoyev, whose current term expires in 2026, can serve as President for two more seven-year terms.

But those who support reforms dismiss criticisms and demand discussions on the changes it promises.

"I am not sure about Presidential terms, but what we know is that the reforms promise more legal rights and social protection for Uzbek people. The country is fast changing. For me, that's the most important thing," said a student at the Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies.

The writer is in Uzbekistan at an invitation from the government

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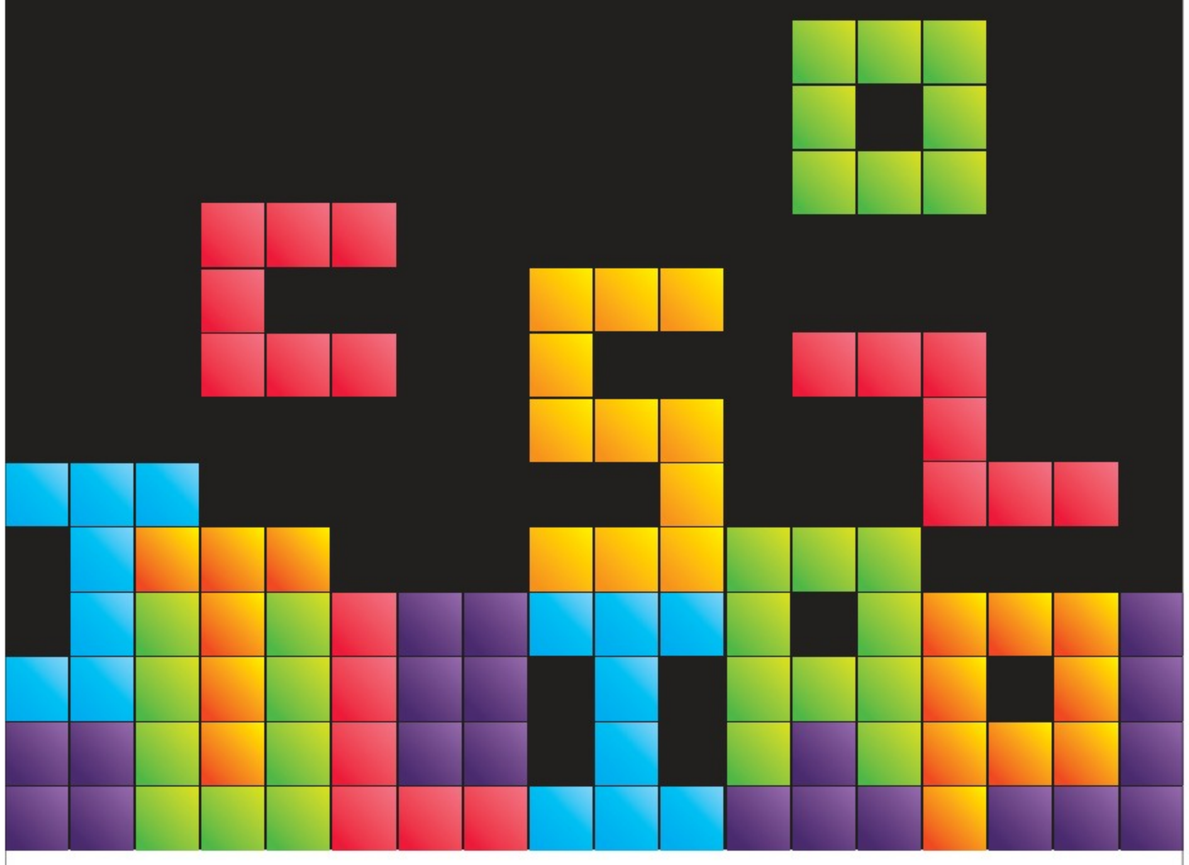

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New study finds a way to massively decarbonise steelmaking

Vasudevan Mukunth

India is the world's second largest steelmaker, having produced 118.2 million tonnes in 2021. Making one tonne of steel releases 1.8 tonne of carbon dioxide, making the sector's decarbonisation plans an integral part of the country's ability to achieve its climate commitments.

Chemical reaction

One way is to use hydrogen in the chemical reaction that separates iron from iron oxide. Carbon is currently used in this place, and that is the problem. But hydrogen cannot be substituted directly because doing so makes the separation reaction very slow, for previously unknown reasons.

In a new paper, scientists from Germany have reported finding the explanation.

The paper was published in *Physical Review Letters* on April 19.

Strong steel consists of less than 1% of carbon. To achieve this, iron oxide is heated with coke (a form of coal with high carbon content) at 1,700 degree Celsius inside a blast furnace. The carbon removes oxygen by forming carbon dioxide.

Carbon footprint

As per a December 2021 paper, this process accounts for almost 90% of the carbon footprint of steelmaking.

When oxygen leaves the iron oxide, scientists know that it leaves behind minuscule pores in iron.

The German team used phase-field models and electron microscopy to discover that when hydrogen is the reactant, the departing oxygen combines with it to form water that becomes trapped inside the pores. From here, it reoxidises the iron and considerably slows oxygen removal.

As a solution, the researchers suggested creating narrow channels on the mineral through which the water could drain, allowing hydrogen to enter them and continue removing oxygen.

Microfracture structure

To this end, the researchers have proposed creating a "microfracture structure" on the feedstock to "increase reduction kinetics and improve metallisation", as per the paper.

"There are several challenges to the widespread application of [such] hydrogen direct reduction production, such as reduction kinetics and the high cost of hydrogen reactants," Xuyang Zhou, deputy group-leader at the Max Planck Institute for Iron Research, Düsseldorf, and one of the authors of the paper, told *The Hindu* in an email.

"It is crucial to address these questions through scientific research and targeted goals," said Dr. Zhou.

H5N1 kills 50 million birds, spreads to mammals

Uncontrolled spread of the virus can be catastrophic to the already endangered bird species globally, leading to the mass extinction of several species

Bani Jolly
Vinod Scaria

This year, the world has been witnessing one of the worst-ever documented outbreak of the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 killing millions of birds. The virus, which is known to cause severe disease and death in birds, has also been detected in mammalian species and also in humans.

This has put health authorities on high alert regarding the implications of the large outbreak on public health.

High mortality in birds

Although avian influenza has different subtypes, H5N1 is a highly pathogenic subtype that causes mortality in birds. Since 2022, the virus has infected over 100 million birds across the globe, resulting in the deaths of over 50 million and culling of millions of poultry. Unlike previous outbreaks of highly pathogenic subtypes of avian influenza, H5N1 is heavily impacting wild bird species, including many which were on the verge of extinction.

While it is difficult to ascertain how many wild birds have been affected by the virus, a significant impact has been seen in eagles, pelicans, geese, waterfowl, gulls, falcons and shorebirds, in addition to the highest possible impact on poultry seen till date, at least in the U.S.

The impact of H5N1 on wild bird populations has varied depending on several factors, such as level of exposure, geographical locations and migratory patterns of the affected species.

High mortality in wild birds due to the virus could lead to significant ecological consequences, including vulnerability of predators and alterations in species composition in affected ecosystems, and therefore a possible impact on biodiversity not just limited to avian species.

It has raised concerns regarding the spread of the virus among critically endangered avian populations.

In recent weeks, reports suggest that at least 20 California condors, a species that was on the verge of extinction since 1980s, have succumbed to H5N1 avian influenza. With around 300 condors estimated to be remaining in the wild, this would roughly account for a significant 7% of the species. H5N1 has also killed a large number of bald eagles and Caspian terns in the U.S. since January 2022, along with thousands of cranes in Israel. Last year, H5N1 hit a colony of the endangered African penguins in South Africa, killing at least 30 penguins.

Spread to animals

The highly contagious H5N1 virus can also occasionally spillover from birds to animals through direct or indirect contact with infected birds or their droppings.

Worryingly, there have been several reports on spillover of H5N1 to mammals during the current outbreak from different countries, infecting species such as sea lions, minks, foxes, wild bears, and skunks, apart from domestic animals such as dogs and cats.

In 2023 alone, H5N1 caused the deaths of over 3,000 sea lions in Peru. In a recent yet-to-be peer-reviewed study, scientists found that the virus could efficiently spread between ferrets in the laboratory. The only known cases of the virus spreading between mammals were reported in minks that were raised in close confinement in a farm in Spain.

The transmission of H5N1 from birds to mammals is rare, but when it does occur, it can be a cause for concern, as the virus could accumulate mutations and acquire the ability to potentially initiate human outbreaks. H5N1 has a high mortality rate of over 60% in humans and is primarily transmitted to humans through close contact with infected birds or animals, either through handling infected poultry or exposure to contaminated environments.

In the recent months, a few sporadic cases of human H5N1 infections have also been reported from Ecuador, Cambodia, and more recently in Chile. However, since the virus does not yet transmit efficiently among humans, the World Health Organization (WHO) has assessed the risk of H5N1 to humans to be low.

However, the large and unabated outbreak in avian species and not so rare mammalian spillovers could potentially provide the virus a chance to adapt for mammalian transmission.

Enhanced measures

As the current H5N1 outbreak continues unabated with devastating impact on avian population globally, and with significant ecological and economic consequences, the time has never been better to initiate efforts for preparedness towards building better, efficient vaccines for avians and humans and genomics surveillance to map the continued evolution of the virus. Enhanced biosecurity measures are also needed to protect both animal and public health.

(Bani Jolly and Vinod Scaria are researchers at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB). Opinions expressed are personal)

Deadly H5N1 outbreak continues unabated globally

Since 2022, H5N1 has infected over 100 million birds globally, killing over 50 million birds and millions of poultry have been culled

Concerning: In 2023 alone, H5N1 has killed over 3,000 sea lions in Peru.

1. Unlike previous outbreaks of highly pathogenic subtypes of avian influenza, H5N1 is heavily impacting wild bird species
2. In addition to poultry, eagles, pelicans, geese, waterfowl, gulls, falcons and shorebirds have been impacted significantly
3. High mortality in wild birds could cause significant ecological consequences, including vulnerability of predators and alterations in species composition in affected ecosystems
4. There have been several spillovers of H5N1 virus from birds to mammals globally
5. When H5N1 spreads from birds to mammals, the virus could accumulate mutations and acquire the ability to initiate human outbreaks
6. A few sporadic cases of human H5N1 infections have been reported from Ecuador, Cambodia, and Chile

Anaemia: major flaws in a tea fortification study

R. Prasad

A small study carried out in Sangli, Maharashtra on 43 women participants to evaluate the effectiveness of tea fortification with folate and vitamin B12 to address anaemia and prevent neural-tube defects in children is riddled with problems.

The results were published in the *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health*.

The participants were divided into three groups. The first group had 19 women who were given tea fortified with 1 mg folate and 0.1 mg vitamin B12. The second group (19 women) was given tea fortified with 1 mg folate and 0.5 mg vitamin B12. The third was the control group but with a "limited number" of participants (five).

Statistical power

"Usually, the number of participants is decided based on the statistical power of the comparison, which in turn is dependent on the expected difference and its variability. None of these are defined. Thus, a "limited number" of controls is not the way to go," Dr. Anura Kurpad, Professor of Physiology in St John's Medical College, Bengaluru, says in an email to *The Hindu*.

Since the number of participants in the control arm is less, the authors used pre- and post-intervention values to measure the efficacy of folate and vitamin B12 intervention. However, this approach has a fundamental problem.

"Pre- and post-interventions are subject to any number of confounders that could have caused the observed changes. Having a control group eliminates the known and unknown confounders, and participants should be randomised to any of the groups. None of these conditions were fulfilled," Dr. Kurpad says.

Whether the participants were given folate or folic acid is not clear as references to both are made in the paper. According to him, for folate, the recommended ceiling on intake (also called the tolerable upper limit of intake) is 1 mg/day. For folic acid, it will be about half of that (0.5 mg/day). If 1 mg/day of folic acid was given, it had certainly exceeded the upper limit.

Deficient: Fortification using only folate and vitamin B12 may not be sufficient to address the problem of anaemia in women. GETTY IMAGES

Haemoglobin levels

A bigger problem is about measuring haemoglobin levels after intervention. While the study claims that haemoglobin counts increased post-intervention, the fact is that haemoglobin level was not measured for all participants. "Due to an inadvertent communication error, post-intervention haemoglobin levels were not uniformly obtained in all three groups," the paper says. So, it is not certain that elevated levels of folate and vitamin B12 post-intervention have necessarily led to increased haemoglobin levels in all participants.

Another shortcoming of the study has been the focus on folate and vitamin B12 fortification of tea without taking iron into consideration. Anaemia can be caused due to deficiency of iron, vitamin B12 and/or folic acid. So fortification using only folate and vitamin B12 may not be sufficient to address the problem of anaemia in women.

"Focusing on one or two nutrients in the complex mixture of nutrients required for making haemoglobin in the body is a mistake," cautions Dr. Kurpad.

Iron deficiency

A few small studies in India suggest that 50% of anaemia is due to iron deficiency. The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) of Indian children aged 1-19 years measured haemoglobin and other markers such as ferritin for iron, and serum B12 and folate levels.

"In adolescent girls (10-19 years), folate and B12 deficiency anaemia was present in 22%. Iron deficiency anaemia was seen in 27% of girls. Anaemia due to unknown origin and inflammation accounted for 31%," he says.

SNAPSHOTS

Over 64% of elephant habitat lost across Asia since 1700

Habitats suitable for Asian elephants across Asia have decreased by over 64% – equating to 3.3 million square kilometres of land – since 1700, estimates a study (*Scientific Reports*). Researchers estimated the change in the fragmentation and spread of Asian elephant ecosystems in 13 countries. They suggest that China, India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Vietnam, and Sumatra have each lost more than half of their suitable elephant habitat range, with the greatest declines in China (around 94%) and India (around 86%).

Tasmanian devil facial tumours hint about evolution

A comprehensive genetic analysis of the debilitating facial tumours that have plagued Tasmanian devils for three decades has opened a window onto the contagious cancer's evolution in action. Geneticists discovered that the first devil facial tumour (DFT1) emerged in 1986, a decade before it was detected. A second, faster-mutating tumour, DFT2, arose in 2011 and was discovered three years later. Tasmanian devils are becoming resilient to facial tumours, but the recent emergence of DFT2 is concerning.

Japanese spacecraft crash lands on surface of the Moon

A lunar spacecraft developed by the Japanese firm, ispace, appears to have crash-landed. It is still unclear what exactly happened. Mission control lost contact with the 2.3-metre-tall lander when it was around 90 metres above the Moon's surface. The craft picked up speed as it descended, and it could have run out of fuel prematurely. The lander was carrying the UAE's Rashid rover, which was to investigate the geological properties of the Moon's surface.

Question Corner

Core of Mars

Is the core of Mars solid or liquid?

Scientists observed seismic waves travelling through Mars' core for the first time and confirmed model predictions of the core's composition.

The researchers used seismic data acquired by the NASA InSight lander to directly measure properties of Mars's core, finding a completely liquid iron-alloy core with high percentages of sulphur and oxygen (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*).

To determine these differences, the team tracked the progression of two distant seismic events on Mars, one caused by a marsquake and the other by a large impact, and detected waves that travelled through the planet's core. By comparing the time taken by the waves to travel through Mars compared with waves that stayed in the mantle, and combining this information with other seismic and geophysical measurements, the team estimated the density and compressibility of material the waves travelled through, as per a release. The researchers' results indicated that Mars most likely has a completely liquid core.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

'Controversial' prime-time anchor

Tucker Carlson

The high-profile host was fired by Fox News following the settlement of a case brought by Dominion Voting Systems, which alleged that the Rupert Murdoch-owned media house maligned its reputation by putting out unfounded claims about the 2020 U.S. presidential election

Narayan Lakshman

Popular U.S. news anchor Tucker Carlson, 53, was fired this week by Fox News, the channel under whose aegis he became the champion of the new conservative movement led by former President Donald Trump. His ouster from the Rupert Murdoch-owned media house came on the heels of a damaging lawsuit brought against Fox by election technologies company Dominion Voting Systems, which alleged that the news outlet had maligned their reputation and harassed their staff by dragging them into the unfounded right-wing conspiracy that the 2020 U.S. presidential election was "stolen" from Mr. Trump and handed to his Democratic rival and current President, Joe Biden. To avoid going to trial and facing potentially embarrassing revelations in court about anchors who deliberately propagated hateful misinformation on the election, some of it perhaps linked to the subsequent January 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, Fox News agreed to settle the Dominion case for a whopping $787.5 million. In the likely internal shake-up and shareholder anger that is said to have followed, reports suggest, Mr. Carlson may have been shown the door as a high-profile, prime-time *Fox* anchor whose career was dogged by too many controversies for the network to tolerate.

Mr. Carlson was born in 1969 in San Francisco, California, to Richard Carlson, a media executive with the Voice of America and former CEO of The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Lisa McNear, an artist, who left the family when Mr. Carlson was six years old.

When he was 10, Mr. Carlson's father remarried into a wealthy business family and both Mr. Carlson and his brother, Buckley, went to St. George's, a Rhode Island private school. Following that, Mr. Carlson attended Trinity College, where, as he said in an interview, "He spent his days mostly drunk." Mr. Carlson graduated in 1992 and married Susan Anderson, whom he knew from high school. Reports say that after college Mr. Carlson applied to the CIA, but his application was denied.

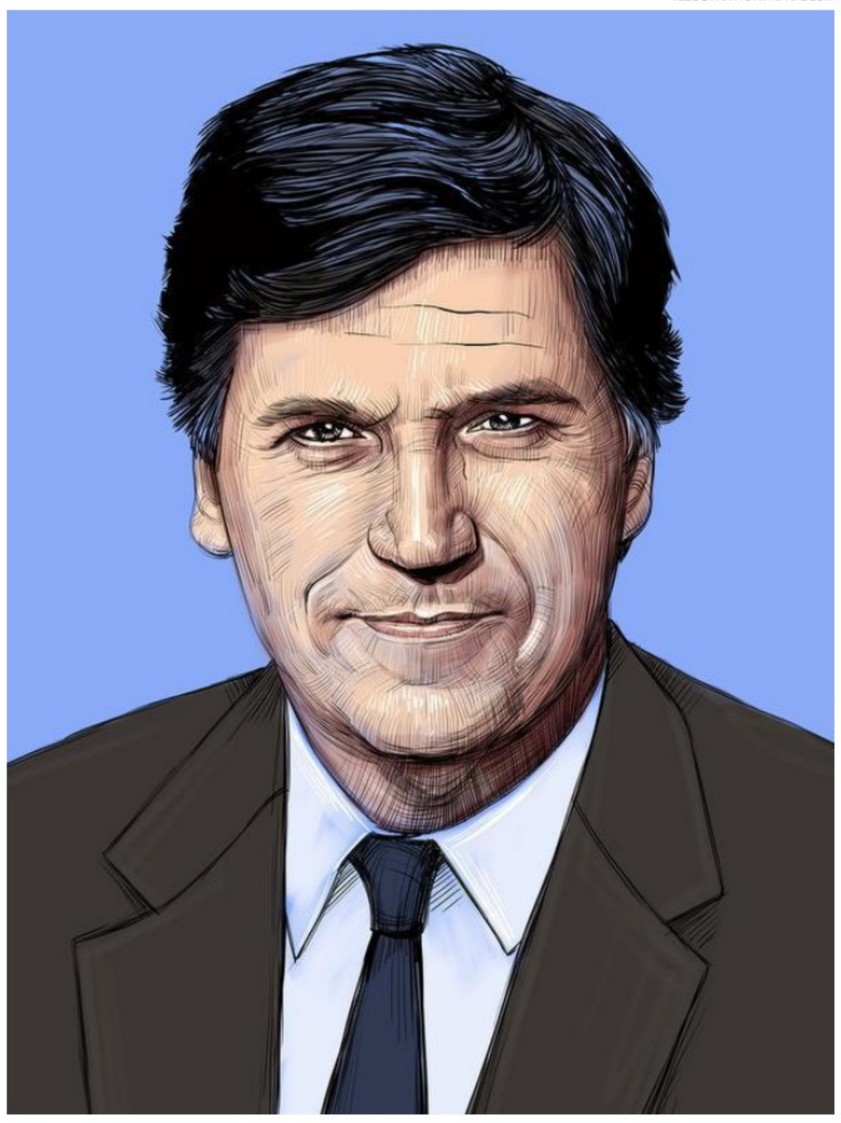
At that point his father is said to have advised him to consider journalism as "They'll take anybody", and thus Mr. Carlson began working for the now defunct *Policy Review* quarterly of the conservative Heritage Foundation, as – and the irony of this job would only be apparent later – a fact-checker. He continued to write for several major publications during the 1990s and landed a job as a CNN commentator in the early 2000s prior to signing up with MSNBC to host a nightly programme.

Big break with Fox

While he moved to Fox News in 2009 to work as a political analyst, his big moment in the spotlight finally came in 2016 after two seismic developments in the conservative media and political landscape. First, Mr. Carlson was given the just-vacated prime-time slot of 8 p.m. that was earlier held by disgraced star Bill O'Reilly – an anchor who left Fox News after reports emerged that millions of dollars had been paid out to women who had accused him of sexual misconduct. Second, and arguably more importantly, Mr. Trump came to power, giving Mr. Carlson the perfect opportunity to use his new prime-time slot to defend the embattled new President, with the specific aim of pandering to the Trump campaign's core value of populist outrage fuelling divisive politics.

However, Mr. Carlson was not just another Trump acolyte. On the one hand, he reportedly said to friends and co-workers that he "needed to find a way to reach the Trump faithful, but without imitating [another high-profile Fox anchor Sean] Hannity" – whom he felt was trapped in apologising for Mr. Trump's everyday gaffes and missteps. On the other, it was revealed during the Dominion lawsuit that Mr. Carlson privately repudiated Mr. Trump's 2020 election fraud claims even though he publicly backed the conspiracy theories on air.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



With this carefully curated political posture, soon the power of his show, Tucker Carlson Tonight, was evident – it kicked off featuring a debut episode that attracted an audience of nearly 3.7 million people. With such soaring numbers, Mr. Carlson became a critical force shaping the very contours of American conservative philosophy, all the while flogging, according to the *New York Times*, "the emotional core of Mr. Trump's allure – white panic over the country's changing ethnic composition..." By late 2018, the Tucker Carlson Tonight show had become the second highest-rated cable news programme in prime-time U.S. television, even though it had been boycotted by 20 advertisers after Mr. Carlson said that "unregulated" immigration made the U.S. "poorer and dirtier and more divided".

Slippery slope

As successful as his show was, it equally became a pressure point for Mr. Carlson and Fox News to keep supplying supportive narratives, even when in reality there were none. Thus began the slippery slope that ultimately led to Mr. Carlson's ouster following the Dominion case.

Equally damning was the legal case brought by Abby Grossberg, a former Fox producer who served as Mr. Carlson's head of booking and was fired by the network corporation after complaining of aggressive coaching and intimidation by Fox lawyers before she deposed in the Dominion lawsuit in September 2022, saying it left her "feeling pressured not to name names or to implicate others, in particular prominent male on-air personalities and Fox News executives".

The Grossberg lawsuit also alleges that Fox News and Mr. Carlson specifically let the Tonight show become "a work environment that subjugates women based on vile sexist stereotypes, typecasts religious minorities and belittles their traditions, and demonstrates little to no regard for those suffering from mental illness".

A second, potentially even more damaging development relating to the 2020 presidential election is a case brought by Smartmatic, another election technology company, which has filed a $2.7-billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News – likely to have made it impossible to retain an anchor such as Mr. Carlson after evidence based on internal Fox documents surfaced proving "actual malice" on the part of senior network executives.

Speaking for the movement

While speculation is rife as to what Mr. Carlson will do next – especially in the light of a rambling video attacking mainstream media that he released online after his firing – there is little doubt that he will continue to speak for Trumpism, even if Mr. Trump is no longer at the helm of political affairs. Immigration controversies, racial hatred, and classical conservative anxiety about minorities of all hues will apparently serve readily as fodder for the likes of Mr. Carlson. Yet his success might well spell continuing pain for those who seek to realise the pluralist dream of the U.S. as "the land of the free and the home of the brave".

THE GIST

- Following stints at CNN and MSNBC, Tucker Carlson joined Fox News in 2009 and began hosting the Tucker Carlson Tonight show in 2016, which went on to become the second highest-rated cable news programme in prime-time U.S. television in 2018
- In the lawsuit brought out by Dominion, it was revealed that Mr. Carlson privately repudiated Mr. Trump's 2020 election fraud claims, even though he publicly backed the conspiracy theories on air. Smartmatic, another election technology company, has also filed a $2.7-billion defamation lawsuit against Fox News related to the 2020 presidential election
- He is also involved in a lawsuit filed by Abby Grossberg, a former Fox producer who served as Mr. Carlson's head of booking, who said Fox News and Mr. Carlson specifically let the Tonight show become "a work environment that subjugates women based on vile sexist stereotypes, typecasts religious minorities, and demonstrates little to no regard for those suffering from mental illness"

Point of no return

Satyapal Malik

The former Governor who once praised Narendra Modi for being the best Prime Minister for Jammu and Kashmir has trained his guns on him

Ashok Kumar

ILLUSTRATION:J. A. PREMKUMAR

It is not always that a Governor affiliated to the ruling dispensation speaks against the government. So when Satyapal Malik, then Meghalaya Governor, chose to unequivocally support the farmers' agitation over the now-repealed farm laws in 2021, his remarks not just left the Modi government red-faced but also made national headlines.

Dragging Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah into the controversy, Mr. Malik, while speaking at a function at Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh in March 2021, said he urged the two leaders not to use force against the farmers and not send them back "empty handed". His assertion in support of the agitation made him a darling of the farmer unions and the *khaps* in Haryana. Mr. Malik sharpened his attacks in the following months, even calling Mr. Modi "arrogant" at a function in Haryana.

Mr. Malik, a three-time MP, fired a fresh salvo at Mr. Modi in an interview to The Wire earlier this month, targeting the Prime Minister over the Pulwama terror attack, the handling of the Kashmir issue and his stance on corruption.

The 76-year-old leader has been known to be "outspoken". Several of his off-the-cuff remarks and actions during his stints as Governor of four States over the past six years have raised eyebrows. As Bihar Governor, he wrote to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who was then heading a coalition government with the BJP, on the Muzaffarpur shelter home sex abuse case, stressing the need for "developing an institutional mechanism" to ensure a regular social audit of shelter homes by competent institutions.

In March 2020, he said: "Governor has no work. In Kashmir, the Governor usually drinks alcohol and plays golf. In other States too, the Governor lives peacefully and does not get involved in any dispute."

Joining politics

Mr. Malik entered politics in the mid-1960s inspired by the socialist ideology of Ram Manohar Lohia. He joined the Bharatiya Janata Party in 2004 and was appointed its national vice-president in 2012. He was a member of Mr. Modi's team in the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

He had a brief stint with the Congress in the mid-1980s. Mr. Malik was the general secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha before quitting the party in 1987 over the Bofors scam. He was one of the founders of the Jan Morcha, which later became the Janata Dal in 1988.

Mr. Malik was appointed Bihar Governor in 2017. He was sent to Jammu and Kashmir in August 2018, which was seen as an elevation for him. In an interview to a news channel the same year, Mr. Malik called Mr. Modi the "best Prime Minister" for Jammu and Kashmir.

But the relationship started to sour thereafter. Mr. Malik was at the helm when the special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was revoked in August 2019. In the interview, Mr. Malik claimed he was not aware of the move till the night before and would have advised the government not to demote Jammu and Kashmir to a Union Territory. He was transferred to Goa in October 2019.

After serving for around nine months, he was transferred to Meghalaya. Mr. Malik claimed he was shunted out of Goa in a hurry after he informed the Prime Minister about the corruption in the State. He retired as Meghalaya Governor on October 4, 2022

Belonging to the politically influential Jat community, Mr. Malik hails from Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat and also has ancestral roots in Haryana. He draws support from the socially powerful *khaps* and farmer unions in the State and neighbouring Punjab.

Soon after his interview, *khap* and farmer leaders came out in his support for "speaking the truth". However, many are also doubting the credibility of his claims and see a political motive behind it, given the timing of his "revelations", his changing statements, and praise for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

But Mr. Malik seems to have reached a point of no return on a possible truce with Mr. Modi, which is evident from his recent visit to the Jantar Mantar in support of the wrestlers protesting against former Wrestling Federation of India Chairman and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Horrors of a Kenyan cult

Good News International Church

The group, which called upon its followers to fast until death, is in the spotlight after more than 90 corpses, mostly of children, were recovered from its premises

Sumeda

REUTERS

In the run-up to last year's Kenyan general election, Ida Odinga, wife of presidential candidate Raila Odinga, had expressed concerns over the "mushrooming" of churches in the country. A torrent of criticism followed and she was forced to withdraw her statement. A year later, the country's civil society has thrown its weight behind Ms. Ida's proposal after mass graves were discovered at the ranch of a self-styled pastor suspected of running a religious cult in Malindi.

More than 90 corpses, mostly of children, were exhumed after a tip-off led the police to a property in the Shakahola forest, where over a dozen emaciated people said they were starving "to meet Jesus." There are fears that the incident is just the tip of the iceberg, with more than 300 people reported missing in Malindi. As the horror unfolds, the arrest of suspected cult leader Paul Mackenzie Nthenge has put the spotlight on the religious group he led – the Good News International Church.

In the predominantly Christian country, over the years, self-styled pastors have exploited religion to control people. Some used religion for financial gains, but a few operated with darker agendas. One such group, known as the Good News International Church, was established in August 2003 by taxi driver-turned-pastor Paul Mackenzie, with its headquarters in Malindi. According to its website, the organisation intended to "nurture the faithful" in Christian spirituality for the "second coming of Jesus Christ".

The church built its base via the 'End Time Messages' programme on a dedicated TV station and used social media to spread its messages. Most of the blog content, published in 2014, centres on the end of the world, Judgement Day prophecies, and salvation.

Belief system

A look at the church's YouTube channel reveals its true nature. Other than warning followers against 'diabolical' mobile phone-based money transfer services and 'satanic' forces in power, the group stood against imparting school education to children. It discouraged women from seeking medical treatment and told them not to wear 'demonic' wigs. "Why can't women be content with the natural hair given to them by God," a clip shows.

The group asked followers to avoid medical treatment when sick. It even called upon its members to quit their jobs. Over time, the televangelist with 'prophetic powers' and the ability to speak to God amassed a cult following.

However, his sermons caught the attention of the police. Mackenzie's first brush with the law came in 2017 when he was arrested for advocating against school education for children. Two years later, he was held for disobedience of the law and distribution of unexamined films with radicalisation-like content. After his release, Mackenzie said he was closing down the church. He sold the television channel and moved to the forests of Shakahola in 2019.

Soon, Mackenzie started leading cult members to his Malindi ranch, nestled in the forest, where he allegedly convinced them that the world was going to end. He preached that the only way to meet God was to fast until death. Though he claimed to have closed the church, Mackenzie continued uploading video sermons for his 7,000-odd subscribers on YouTube.

It was an activist's tip-off that finally led the police to the 800-acre ranch. The subsequent searches led investigators to uncover the scale of the 'Shakahola forest massacre'. During the raids, investigators unearthed dozens of decomposed bodies buried in shallow graves marked with a cross. Some were left exposed in the open air. A few people were found alive but starving inside mud huts scattered on the ranch. The incident sent shockwaves across Kenya. It has come to light that Mackenzie was arrested in March in connection with the death of two children. Their parents had allegedly starved the two kids on the pastor's advice.

Authorities suspect the pastor and his group were involved in murder and radicalisation, but Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki awaits more followers of the group to come forward to tell the world the real story of "how a fellow Kenyan decided to hurt so many people, heartlessly, hiding under the Holy Scriptures".

INBRIEF

NMDC cuts prices of lump ore, fines by ₹300, ₹100 a tonne

India's largest iron ore producer NMDC has reduced price of the lump ore by ₹300 a tonne and that of fines by ₹100 for the same quantity with effect from April 29. Consequently, the price per tonne is ₹4,200 for lump ore and ₹4,010 for fines, NMDC said on Tuesday. This is the first price revision in the new fiscal. March 21 was when the previous revision, fixing the prices at ₹4,500 and ₹4,110 respectively, came into force.

'Building projects grew 94% in Chennai residential segment'

Constructed projects in the residential segment in the city grew by 94.89% during the January-March 2023 quarter, a study undertaken by real estate body CREDAI said on Saturday. CREDAI's Research and Analysis Wing said in its report that central Chennai accounted for 29% of the projects followed by the city's south at 26%. Despite the increase in the sales of constructed projects, the number of units registered during the quarter dropped by 9%. PTI

Nexus to hit capital market on May 9, to raise up to ₹3,200 cr.

Global investment firm Blackstone-sponsored Nexus Select Trust will hit the capital market on May 9 to raise up to ₹3,200 crore through its retail REIT initial public offering. This will be India's first REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) IPO backed by rent yielding retail real estate assets. According to the offer document, the total size of the public issue is ₹3,200 crore, which includes fresh issue of units worth up to ₹1,400 crore and offer for sale up to ₹1,800 crore. PTI

SEBI seeks time to wrap Adani probe

Markets regulator files plea to Supreme Court for six-month extension citing need for deeper investigation of complex transactions involving conglomerate's listed, unlisted and offshore entities; SEBI says probing '12 suspicious transactions'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Saturday asked the Supreme Court for six more months to complete its probe into Hindenburg Research's report accusing the Adani Group of "brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud schemes over the course of decades".

"Where prima facie violations have been found, a period of six months would be required to arrive at conclusive finding. Where prima facie violations have not been found, six months would be required to revalidate the analysis and arrive at conclusive finding. Where further investigation is required and most of the data required for this purpose is expected to be reasonably accessible, a conclusive finding is expected to be arrived at in six months," SEBI said in its application.

The Adani group has termed Hindenburg's allegations "unsubstantiated speculations."

The court had given the regulator until May 2 to submit its report.

The markets regulator said it was probing "12 suspicious transactions".

"Prima facie, these transactions are complex and have many sub-transactions and a rigorous investigation of these transactions would require collation of data/information from various sources along with detailed analysis including verification of submissions made by the companies," SEBI noted.

The markets regulator is investigating alleged breach of related party transaction rules, public shareholding norms and share price manipulation.

SEBI said that it had received information from several Adani group entities. However, this needs to be independently verified and additional information had been sought from offshore regulators, since some of the transactions under scrutiny involve offshore entities, it said in its application to the court.

Exhaustive probe

SEBI has asked the Supreme Court for adequate time to conduct a proper investigation and arrive at verified findings

- SEBI is probing alleged breach of related party transaction rules, public shareholding norms and share price manipulation
- Says it needs to verify information it has received from several Adani group entities
- Markets regulator says additional information has been sought from offshore regulators

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q4 net rises 26% after NII jumps 35%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Kotak Mahindra Bank reported fourth-quarter standalone net profit rose 26% to ₹3,496 crore, buoyed by a 35% jump in net interest income (NII).

NII in the January-March quarter rose to ₹6,103 crore, from ₹4,521 crore in the year-earlier period and increased 28% for the full fiscal year to ₹21,552 crore.

That helped lift profit after tax for FY23 by 28% to ₹10,939 crore.

Net Interest Margin was 5.75% for the fourth quarter and 5.33% for FY23.

Operating profit surged 39% in the last quarter to ₹4,647 crore and for FY23 rose 23% to ₹14,848 crore.

Net advances grew by more than 18% to ₹3,19,861 crore as at March 31, 2023.

As at March 31, gross NPA was 1.78% and net NPA was 0.37%. (GNPA was 2.34% and NNPA was 0.64% on March 31, 2022). The provision coverage ratio stood at 79.3%.

The bank's Board has recommended dividend of ₹1.50 per equity share for the year ended March 31.

Last week, the bank's shareholders appointed Uday Kotak, whose term as MD and CEO ends in December, as a non-executive, non-independent director.

The appointment is in accordance with the law and in the best interest of stakeholders, Reuters reported Chief Financial Officer Jaimin Bhatt as saying.

Seshasayee Paper and Boards' net more than doubles to ₹116 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Erode-based Seshasayee Paper and Boards Ltd.'s (SPB) standalone net profit for the quarter ended March has more than doubled to ₹116 crore from the year-earlier period due to increased sales volume.

During the quarter under review, revenue from operations grew by 22% to ₹573 crore.

Cost of materials increased by 25% to ₹242 crore, while power and finance costs rose to ₹71 crore from ₹54 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing. The company's board declared a final dividend of ₹6 per share to be paid by June 19. On Saturday, the board, accorded in-principle approval to secure environmental clearances for the ₹700-crore Mill Development Plan-IV (MDP-IV) project.

Capacity augmentation

As per the plan, the expansion would augment paper annual capacity from 1,65,000 tonnes to 2,31,000 tonnes in Erode, and that of pulp capacity (wood and bagasse) by 72,000 tonnes to 2,52,000 tonnes in Tirunelveli.

Indirect tax kitty grew 7.2% to ₹13.82 lakh cr. in 2022-23

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indirect tax collections rose 7.21% in 2022-23 to ₹13.82 lakh crore from ₹12.89 lakh crore in the previous year, according to Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs' (CBIC) data shared on Saturday.

"On the GST side, the average gross monthly collection for the year 2022-23 stood at ₹1.51 lakh crore and monthly GST revenue collections exceeded ₹1.4 lakh crore for 12 months in a row," the CBIC top brass informed Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Central Bank Q4 net profit grows 84% to ₹571 cr.; NII rises 45%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Central Bank of India reported that its fourth quarter net profit grew 84.19% to ₹571 crore against ₹310 crore a year ago, owing to improvements in all-round performance.

Operating profit during the quarter showed a growth of 16.27% on a year-over-year (YoY) basis to ₹2,108 crore. Net Interest Income (NII) grew by 45.35% on a YoY basis to ₹3,513 crore as against ₹2,417 crore a year ago.

Net revenue (Interest Income plus other Income) for Q4FY23 improved by 33.44% from ₹6,420 crore a year ago.

For the year ended March 31, 2023 the bank's reported net profit grew by 51.39% to ₹1,582 crore. NII grew by 23.19% to ₹11,687 crore.

Net Interest Margin (NIM) improved to 3.64%, registering a growth of 43 basis points.

The bank's total business grew by 8.39% to ₹5,77,075 crore, on a YoY basis. While total deposits grew by 4.85% to ₹3,59,296 crore, gross advances rose 15% to ₹2,17,779 crore, YoY.

'Travel and tourism poised for continued growth'

India's domestic growth is extremely strong and is being led by domestic tourism at the moment, be it for business or leisure, says IHCL's CEO

INTERVIEW

Puneet Chhatwal

Lalatendu Mishra

Puneet Chhatwal

In FY23, Indian Hotels Company Ltd. (IHCL), the hospitality company of the Tata Group, owning and operating Taj, Vivanta and Ginger hotels, reported a net profit of ₹1,003 crore against a loss of ₹265 crore a year earlier, thus offsetting the compound losses incurred during the COVID years. Now, with multiple businesses set to yield better results, the company is on a high growth path, said MD & CEO Puneet Chhatwal. Edited excerpts:

What has led to this growth despite the global economy not doing well?

India's domestic growth is extremely strong and our growth is being led by domestic tourism at the moment, be it for business or leisure. We have the highest market share. We witnessed consecutive four quarters of sustained high demand resulting in an all-time high full year consolidated revenue of ₹5,949 crore and the highest ever EBITDA margin of 32.7% and PAT of ₹1,003 crore.

Can this pace of growth be sustained?

The travel and tourism sector is poised for continued growth. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability, and we have seen strong demand for travel and tourism across the country.

Demand will continue to outstrip supply, as travel is still on the cards for people. We expect this trend will continue driven by a number of factors which includes India's strong GDP growth, upcoming national and international events like the World Cup and G20 Summit, recovery in foreign tourist arrivals and continued domestic demand.

What is Ginger's contribution to growth?

Ginger has a revenue of ₹307 crore, EBITDA margin of 39%, an increase in 12 percentage point and another 12 percentage you can factor going forward. This brand should definitely, in the next 2 years, deliver every quarter, more than 50% margin.

Recently the Taj achieved the 100 hotel-portfolio mark. What is the current total portfolio and what is in the pipeline?

Starting its journey in 1903 with the flagship The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, Taj has more than doubled its inventory in the last five years. IHCL has a total of 263 in the portfolio out of which 75 hotels are in the pipeline and 188 being in operation. We have now around 22,000 operational rooms and another 10,000 under development. We are 50% asset-light and 50% where we own or lease the asset.

How have the new businesses performed?

Under the new businesses, Qmin has now grown to 34 outlets with a presence across 24 cities and amã Stays & Trails has witnessed a 42% growth in portfolio this fiscal reaching 114 bungalows across 50+ locations. In line with our strategy of Ahvaan 2025 Vivanta and SeleQtions have already exceeded their targeted portfolio of 75 hotels.

Tatas have invested heavily in the airlines business. How has that helped TajSATS?

TajSATS is an industry leader in airline catering with a market share of 58% in FY2022-23. It clocked a revenue of ₹641 crore which is enabled by the growth in productivity. Meal production went up by 69% compared to pre-COVID levels. The company added new capacity with new kitchens in Amritsar and new airport at Mopa, Goa. Through higher volumes and better yields the company also achieved its highest annual EBITDA margin of 19.7%.

'Zero trust' to be key to data security in India: Bajwa

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

'Zero trust' architecture will be the cornerstone of data security in 2023, especially as India remains one of the most vulnerable countries to cyberthreats and data-loss incidents, said Ripu Bajwa, Director and General Manager, Data Protection Solutions, Dell Technologies India.

In simple terms, zero trust is a security framework requiring all users in and outside an organisation's network to be security-checked, authenticated, authorised, and validated before being granted physical or virtual access to an enterprise, its systems, applications and data pool.

However, complexities around cybersecurity, infrastructure costs and limited understanding of gaps in cyberresiliency among companies stand at the fore as challenges against data protection this year, Mr. Bajwa observed.

'Triple A pillars'

"If we are to succeed in the data era, we need to take a proactive approach to cybersecurity and it needs to be a continuous process and should be built on triple A pillars: authorisation, authentication and accounting," the Dell official said in an interview.

He also cautioned against a piecemeal approach to implementing zero trust as it risked creating gaps in the data pipeline that would make zero trust less ironclad.

At the same time, unwinding legacy hardware and software would also lead to security lapses, Mr. Bajwa warned.

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SETBACK

Stoinis suffers finger injury, to undergo scans

Lucknow Super Giants all-rounder Marcus Stoinis suffered a finger injury during the 56-run victory over Punjab Kings in an IPL encounter at Mohali on Friday. The Australian provided an update after the match. “The finger is alright. It is better now. We will get the scans done,” Stoinis said.

A RECORD

Gurbaz registers highest IPL score by Afghanistan player

KKR’s Rahmanullah Gurbaz recorded the highest score by an Afghanistan player in the IPL following his 39-ball 81 against his former side Gujarat Titans in Kolkata. Gurbaz hit five fours and seven sixes against a Titans bowling attack that lacked fire. Gurbaz, overtook the mark of 57 set by himself earlier against RCB.

PROMISING FUTURE

Rinku a phenomenal talent, hope he plays for India: David Hussey

Former Australian batter David Hussey on Saturday said KKR’s Rinku Singh is a “phenomenal talent” and expressed hope that he will play for India soon. Hussey backed Rinku to play for the Indian team. “Rinku has grown in his confidence and taking his game to the next level. Hopefully, he gets to play for India soon,” he said.

SHAW’S STRUGGLES

It’s been a long time since Prithvi made a fifty, says Ponting

Ricky Ponting called the decision to drop Prithvi Shaw from the Delhi Capitals line-up a tough one. "I think it's 13 [12] games since Prithvi has made a fifty opening the batting for DC. There are a lot of other players at the top of the order with other teams that are playing a whole lot better than Prithvi," Ponting said.

Vijay Shankar, Miller exploits take Titans past the finish line

The two add 87 off 39 deliveries for the unbroken fourth wicket as the Gujarat side wins with ease and climbs to the top; Gill sets the tone for the chase; Gurbaz’s 39-ball 81 lays the platform for Knight Riders before Little steps in for Hardik’s men

IPL-16

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Vijay Shankar and David Miller provided the fireworks as Gujarat Titans cruised to a seven-wicket victory over Kolkata Knight Riders in an Indian Premier League match at the Eden Gardens here on Saturday.

Chasing Knight Riders’ 179 for seven, Titans reached the target with 13 balls to spare and recorded its sixth win.

Impact Player Shubman Gill (49, 35b, 8x4) produced some impressive drives, cuts and flicks while forging a 41-run stand with opening partner Wriddhiman Saha. The former then added 50 with skipper Hardik Pandya.

The architects: After Little came up with crucial strikes to limit Knight Riders to 179, Vijay Shankar took charge of the chase. K.R. DEEPAK

Losing momentum

Titans lost some momentum after two batters fell in consecutive overs. Pacer Harshit Rana sent back Hardik while Sunil Narine took his first wicket after five games, inducing a false shot from Gill.

The Knight Riders spinners kept the Titans batters on a leash for a while before Miller, who was dropped off Russell on 26, and Vijay Shankar turned things around.

The South African smashed two sixes straight down the ground while Vijay Shankar employed the pull to great effect as the duo’s unbroken 87-run association off 39 balls powered Titans home with plenty to spare.

It was sweet revenge for Titans who had lost to Knight Riders earlier in the season due to Rinku Singh’s last-over heroics. Vijay Shankar remained unbeaten on 51 (24b, 2x4, 5x6) and Miller was not out on 32 (18b, 2x4, 2x6).

After the start was delayed by 45 minutes due to rain, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (81, 39b, 5x4, 7x6), who returned to the side after three matches, piloted Knight Riders to 61 (for two) in the PowerPlay.

The Afghanistan batter took the aerial route repeatedly and played shots on both sides of the wicket.

Gurbaz was particularly severe on countryman Rashid Khan.

It was left-arm pacer Josh Little who applied the brakes on the Knight Riders innings, trapping Venkatesh Iyer in front and having Nitish Rana caught at point in the 11th over. Left-arm wrist spinner Noor Ahmad took two wickets to further affect Knight Riders’ tempo.

Russell (34, 19b, 2x4, 3x6) was in his element on his birthday, but Knight Riders couldn’t put up a total that would test Titans.

SCOREBOARD

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

N. Jagadeesan lbw b Shami 19 *(15b, 4x4)*, Rahmanullah Gurbaz c Rashid b Noor 81 *(39b, 5x4, 7x6)*, Shardul Thakur c Mohit b Shami 0 *(4b)*, Venkatesh Iyer lbw b Little 11 *(14b)*, Nitish Rana c Tewatia b Little 4 *(3b, 1x4)*, Rinku Singh c Little b Noor 19 *(20b, 1x6)*, Andre Russell c Tewatia b Shami 34 *(19b, 2x4, 3x6)*, David Wiese (not out) 8 *(6b, 1x6)*; Extras (w-3): 3; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 179.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-23 (Jagadeesan, 2.5 overs), 2-47 (Shardul, 4.6), 3-84 (Venkatesh, 10.1), 4-88 (Nitish, 10.4), 5-135 (Gurbaz, 15.2), 6-156 (Rinku, 17.3), 7-179 (Russell, 19.6).

TITANS BOWLING

Shami 4-0-33-3, Hardik 3-0-34-0, Rashid 4-0-54-0, Little 4-0-25-2, Noor 4-0-21-2, Mohit 1-0-12-0.

GUJARAT TITANS

Wriddhiman Saha c Harshit b Russell 10 *(10b, 1x4)*, Shubman Gill **(Impact player for Mohit Sharma)** c Russell b Narine 49 *(35b, 8x4)*, Hardik Pandya lbw b Harshit 26 *(20b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Vijay Shankar (not out) 51 *(24b, 2x4, 5x6)*, David Miller (not out) 32 *(18b, 2x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-9, w-3): 12; Total (for three wkts. in 17.5 overs): 180.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-41 (Saha, 4.1), 2-91 (Hardik, 10.4), 3-93 (Gill, 11.2).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Harshit 3-0-25-1, Russell 3-0-29-1, Varun 4-0-42-0, Suyash **(Impact player for Venkatesh Iyer)** 4-0-37-0, Narine 3-0-24-1, Nitish 0.5-0-14-0.

Toss: Titans; **PoM:** Little.
Titans won by seven wickets with 13 balls remaining.

Points table

	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans	8	6	2	12	0.638
Rajasthan Royals	8	5	3	10	0.939
Lucknow Super Giants	8	5	3	10	0.841
Chennai Super Kings	8	5	3	10	0.376
Royal Challengers Bangalore	8	4	4	8	-0.139
Punjab Kings	8	4	4	8	-0.510
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	6	6	-0.147
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	3	5	6	-0.577
Mumbai Indians	7	3	4	6	-0.620
Delhi Capitals	8	2	6	4	-0.898

*After the DC-SRH match on April 29

Next assignment

GT: May 2 vs. **DC**
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

KKR: May 4 vs. **SRH**
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

Capitals implode against Sunrisers, stay at the bottom

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

In Delhi Capitals’ team meetings, coach Ricky Ponting and captain David Warner would have made no secret of their displeasure when talking to the batters.

On Saturday, going by the way Player-of-the-Match Mitchell Marsh and Phil Salt responded to the challenge posed by Sunrisers Hyderabad, Ponting and Warner looked happy in the dugout. Soon, the familiar script of Capitals’ implosion followed and left Sunrisers winner by nine runs.

Chasing 198 for a third straight victory, Capitals looked well on course after half-centuries from Marsh and Salt raised 112 for the second wicket following Warner’s departure without a run on the board. At this stage, with the 12th over in progress, Capitals were ahead of Sunrisers.

But the match turned on its head in the space of 13 deliveries. Sunrisers stormed back by dismissing Salt, Manish Pandey and Marsh.

Salt fell to a diving return-catch, Pandey stepped out to be stumped and Marsh mistimed a heave to offer a skier. Soon Priyam Garg stepped out and dragged one on to the stumps to become leg-spinner Mayank Markande’s second victim.

Thereafter, the rising required run-rate played its part as Capitals lost more wickets in search of quick runs. Though the eventual margin looked close, Capitals never seriously threatened Sunrisers at the back-end of the chase.

By avenging the loss suffered in the previous match, Sunrisers raised their tally to six points, two more than Capitals.

Marsh, who struck four times to prevent Sunrisers from reaching 200 and hit six sixes in his breezy 39-ball 63 to keep Capitals in the hunt, was unlucky to finish on the losing side.

When Sunrisers opted to bat, opener Abhishek Sharma and wicketkeeper-batter Heinrich Klaasen took turns to keep Capitals at bay.

Abhishek was particularly severe on Ishant Sharma whom he hit for six boundaries in the Power-Play that produced 62 runs and two wickets.

Once the left-hander departed at 109, Klaasen took charge. He contributed an unbeaten 53, with four sixes, off the 88 runs scored in his presence to give Sunrisers a very impressive total.

Disastrous start: Delhi lost Warner to the second ball of the innings. R.V. MOORTHY

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Abhishek Sharma c Warner b Axar 67 *(36b, 12x4, 1x6)*, Mayank Agarwal c Salt b Ishant 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tripathi c Pandey b Marsh 10 *(6b, 1x6)*, Aiden Markram c Axar b Marsh 8 *(13b)*, Harry Brook c Axar b Marsh 0 *(2b)*, Heinrich Klaasen (not out) 53 *(27b, 2x4, 4x6)*, Abdul Samad c Salt b Marsh 28 *(21b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Akeal Hosein (not out) 16 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-8, nb-1): 10; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 197.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-21 (Mayank, 2.3 overs), 2-44 (Tripathi, 4.4), 3-83 (Markram, 9.2), 4-83 (Brook, 9.4), 5-109 (Abhishek, 11.3), 6-162 (Samad, 16.6).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Ishant 3-0-31-1, Nortje 4-0-44-0, Mukesh 2-0-38-0, Marsh 4-1-27-4, Kuldeep 3-0-27-0, Axar 4-0-29-1.

DELHI CAPITALS

David Warner b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(2b)*, Phil Salt c & b Markande 59 *(35b, 9x4)*, Mitchell Marsh c Markram b Hosein 63 *(39b, 1x4, 6x6)*, Manish Pandey st. Klaasen b Abhishek 1 *(3b)*, Priyam Garg b Markande 12 *(9b, 1x4)*, Sarfaraz Khan **(Impact Player in place of Ishant)** b Natarajan 9 *(10b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel (not out) 29 *(14b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Ripal Patel (not out) 11 *(8b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 188.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Warner, 0.2), 2-112 (Salt, 11.2), 3-115 (Pandey, 12.3), 4-125 (Marsh, 13.2), 5-140 (Garg, 15.4), 6-148 (Sarfaraz, 16.5).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-45-1, Hosein 4-0-40-1, Natarajan **(Impact Player in place of Tripathi)** 4-0-34-1, Umran 1-0-22-0, Markande 4-0-20-2, Abhishek 3-0-26-1.

Toss: Sunrisers; **PoM:** Marsh.
Sunrisers won by nine runs.

Next assignment

DC: May 2 vs. GT
Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

SRH: May 4 vs. KKR
Hyderabad, 7.30 p.m.

Learning process: There are many things sport teaches you on and off the field, feels Dravid. FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

There’s more to sport than winning, says Dravid

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Averring that his current role of Team India head coach is all about delivering the World Cup, former India captain Rahul Dravid said parents and children should, however, look at sport beyond the lens of “excellence” in the sporting arena.

“There is a lot of focus on winning –trophies, tournaments, matches. In my current job, that is the only demand: win the World Cup. But, that’s just a very small part of what sport does.

“Actually, I don’t even think that is what sport is all about,” Dravid said, at the inaugural edition of ‘Making Sport Work Forum’, an initiative for a cohesive effort towards development of sport through corporate social responsibility.

“I don’t think anyone can start off playing a sport to win trophies or medals for the country. I think the aspiration has to be about living a healthier, fitter lifestyle; looking at the lessons that sport can teach you,” Dravid said.

> I don’t think anyone can start off playing a sport to win trophies or medals for the country

There are many things sport teaches you on and off the field: camaraderie, friendship, life. That life is about sharing, about partnerships.

One learns a lot in classrooms, but there are just as many things that you can’t learn in a classroom.

That’s where the sports field plays a huge role, he said.

Societal change

Pointing out that only around 310 boys and even fewer girls have worn the India cap in India’s 90-year Test history, Dravid stressed the need for looking at sport as a means for societal change.

Parents and children should focus on confidence building, communication abilities or just a healthy lifestyle, he advised.

“That’s really what sport should be about. As a by-product of that, if you win medals and trophies, that’s fantastic. Sport is a means to build communities, to get people of different religions, socio-economic backgrounds, castes, in building all that, sport can play an incredible role,” he said.

The forum – a joint venture by Sports and Society Accelerator and Meraki Sport & Entertainment – saw top executives across the corporate world sharing ideas about involving sport more as part of the CSR initiatives.

A report titled ‘CSR and Sports in India Report 2023’ was released at the event.

INBRIEF

Red Bull's Perez takes the honours in sprint race

Sergio Perez won Saturday's sprint race at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix in Baku to maintain Red Bull's perfect start to the season. Ferrari's pole-sitter Charles Leclerc was second with Max Verstappen in third to keep his lead in the drivers' championship ahead of Sunday's main event.

The starting grid (for main event):
Front row: Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), Sergio Perez (Red Bull); **2nd row:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull), George Russell (Mercedes); **3rd row:** Carlos Sainz (Ferrari), Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes); **4th row:** Alex Albon (Williams), Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin); **5th row:** Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), Lando Norris (McLaren); **6th row:** Oscar Piastri (McLaren), Nico Hulkenberg (Haas).
7th row: Kevin Magnussen (Haas), Zhou Guanyu (Alfa Romeo); **8th row:** Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo), Yuki Tsunoda (Alpha Tauri); **9th row:** Pierre Gasly (Alpine), Nyck de Vries (Alpha Tauri).

India in AFC U-17 Asian Cup qualifiers second round

The India under-17 team posted a 2-1 win over Myanmar in its concluding AFC U-17 Women's Asian Cup qualifiers round one tie in Bishek, Kyrgyzstan, on Friday, and qualified from Group F for round two. In the three-team group, India won both its matches against Kyrgyz Republic and Myanmar and finished with six points.

The result: India 2 (Sulanjana, Pooja) bt Myanmar 1 (Ya Min Phyu).

Tie-breakers to decide world chess championship winner

The World chess championship will be decided by the tie-breakers. The final game in the title match between Ian Nepomniachtchi and Ding Liren ended in a draw after 90 moves at Astana on Saturday. The scores were level 7-7 after 14 rounds of classical chess. The tie-breakers of shorter time controls will be played on Sunday.

Bochum dents Dortmund's Bundesliga title hopes

A late winner ruled offside, penalties not given, and Borussia Dortmund's Bundesliga title hopes were dealt a blow at local rival Bochum in a 1-1 draw on Friday. Bochum goalkeeper Manuel Riemann helped gain an important point for his team in its battle against relegation, but Dortmund missed the chance to build a four-point lead over Bayern Munich.

Crystal Palace effectively sealed its Premier League survival with a thrilling 4-3 win against West Ham. Roy Hodgson's side moved 11 points clear of the bottom three thanks to goals from Jordan Ayew, Wilfried Zaha, Jeff Schlupp and Eberechi Eze at Selhurst Park.

Tomas Soucek, Michail Antonio and Nayef Aguerd were on the scoresheet for West Ham.

The results: Premier League: Crystal Palace 4 (Ayew 15, Zaha 20 Schlupp 30, Eze 66-pen) bt West Ham 3 (Soucek 9, Antonio 36, Aguerd 73); Brentford 2 (Toney 82, Dasilva 90+4) bt Nottingham Forest 1 (Danilo 45); Brighton 6 (Undav 6, 66, Gross 13, 26, Welbeck 39, 48) bt Wolves 0.
Bundesliga: Union Berlin 0 drew with Bayer Leverkusen 0.
On Friday: Bundesliga: VfL Bochum 1 (Losilla 5) drew with Borussia Dortmund 1 (Adeyemi 7).

LIVE TELECAST

FIH Pro League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 a.m.
World Chess championship: FIDE & *Chess.com YouTube* channels, 2.30 p.m. onwards
Badminton: Asia individual C'ship: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m.
ATP: Madrid Open, Sony LIV, 2.30 p.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 4.30, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.

CSK will fancy its chances against PBKS in the battle between Kings

Both Dhoni's men and Dhawan's side are coming into the match on the back of big defeats; spin is likely to be a key factor and the visitors will hope Chahar, who has struggled so far this season, will find his mojo

IPL-16

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

It is the battle of Kings on Sunday in the 999th match of the Indian Premier League when Chennai Super Kings face off against Punjab Kings here at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium.

Both sides are coming into this match on the back of big defeats in which they conceded big totals and failed to chase them down.

The Super Kings' 32-run defeat to Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur ended its three-match winning streak and has now pushed down the four-time champion from the top of the table to fourth.

However, Dhoni's men will fancy their chances against Shikhar Dhawan's side at home as it seeks to return to winning ways.

Home, sweet home: The Super Kings players, seen at a practice session, will look to make use of the familiar conditions. M. VEDHAN

The Men in Yellow will want to focus on their bowling in PowerPlay, where the team has been leaking runs. It was something that cost the side the game against Royals.

In conditions where spin will dominate proceedings, Dhoni will have an easier task in controlling proceedings with three quality spinners at his disposal. Meanwhile, Punjab Kings will want to quickly forget its last outing where the team conceded the second-highest total in IPL history against Lucknow Super Giants in Mohali.

Bowling has been the team's strength this year, but its pacers had an off-day against Super Giants.

The visitors will not have it easy in Chepauk, and Dhawan will need his spinners to come to the fore – something they have yet to do so far this season.

Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar has struggled this year, having taken only two wickets and will need to regain his mojo.

It will be interesting to see if the team drafts in an extra spinner instead of a fast bowler or backs the likes of Sikandar Raza and Liam Livingstone to shoulder the load with Chahar.

Gold for Aman, Vanshika and Pooja at Asian u-18 athletics

Sports Bureau

India's Aman Kumar and Vanshika won the boys' and girls' 3000m gold while teammates Yogeswar Rajasekaran and Anju Bala took the silver at the fifth Asian under-18 athletics championship in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on Saturday.

On Friday, Pooja won the girls' high jump title with 1.77m, while Arjun picked up a silver in boys' javelin.

The results (Indian medal winners):

Boys: 3000m: 1. Aman Kumar (8:39.15s), 2. Yogeswar Rajasekaran (8:39.85); **Hammer throw:** 3. Narpat Singh (67.26m).

Girls: 3000m: 1. Vanshika (10:15.16s), 2. Anju Bala (10:22.86s).

Friday's events: Boys: Javelin: 2. Arjun 66.99m. **Girls: High jump:** 1. Pooja (1.77m).

A struggling MI takes on high-flying RR

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

The Wankhede Stadium will don a festive look on Sunday when Mumbai Indians faces Rajasthan Royals in the 1000th match of the Indian Premier League.

To mark the occasion, the BCCI has planned a celebration. Volunteers will carry special flags, video clippings from past editions will be on display and the two captains – Rohit Sharma and Sanju Samson – will be presented special mementos.

While that will set the tone for the evening, a misfiring Mumbai Indians will be hoping to bring its campaign back on track against a high-flying Royals, who are currently second in the points table, despite having lost two of their last three games.

After a convincing victory against Chennai Super Kings, Royals would bank on Jos Buttler and Yashasvi Jaiswal to put up a big total on a batting-friendly surface. Dhruv Jurel has been consistent in the middle-order, whereas Shimron Hetmyer needs to bounce back after a string of low scores.

With Yuzvendra Chahal and R. Ashwin together accounting for 23 wickets, spin has been RR's strength and as Trent Boult returns, the bowling bears a settled look.

Rallying the boys: Rohit supervises Mumbai Indians' practice session on Saturday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

TODAY'S MATCHES

Chennai Super Kings vs. Punjab Kings	Mumbai Indians vs. Rajasthan Royals
Chennai, 3.30 p.m.	Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 27	Played: 26
CSK 15 | PBKS 12	MI 14 | RR 12
PREVIOUS MEETING	PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by 11 runs, 2022	MI won by five wickets, 2022

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIO CINEMA APP

It's the opposite for MI, though. The team has struggled with death bowling and will want Jofra Archer, who is available for selection now, to find his rhythm.

Placed eighth in the points table, MI needs a lot more from captain Rohit and Ishan Kishan, who have each crossed the 50-run mark just once in seven outings. The team has often struggled to rebuild after losing wickets, and it's time for Suryakumar Yadav and Tim David to be consistent.

Mauricio guides Odisha FC to group stage of AFC Cup

Three cheers: Mauricio was the hero as Odisha FC defeated Gokulam Kerala in the AFC Cup qualifier K. RAGESH

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

Earlier this week here, Diego Mauricio scored a brace that gave Odisha FC the Super Cup. He did even better on Saturday night. He struck a hat-trick against Gokulam Kerala to lead Odisha to the group stage of the AFC Cup.

Riding on the Brazilian's hat-trick, Clifford Miranda's boys won the qualifier 3-1 against the I-League side that was playing at home. Gokulam had no clue how to stop Mauricio.

Gokulam started on the wrong foot with three of their defenders collecting yellow cards inside the first 20 minutes. By then, Gokulam had already been a goal down. Sahil Panwar's throw-in from the left found Victor Rodriguez, whose deft pass inside the box was finished precisely by Mauricio.

Thirteen minutes later, he doubled the lead for Odisha as he cut into the box from the right after receiving a long ball, turned the Gokulam defenders into spectators and beat goalkeeper K. Shibin Raj with a powerful strike.

The home team, however, reduced the deficit inside five minutes as Thahir Zaman's brilliant cross from the right was met by Farshad Noor's superb header. The score stayed 2-1 at half-time. But, eight minutes into the second half, Mauricio was brought down inside the box by Pawan Kumar Drall and the Brazilian completed his well-earned hat-trick from the penalty spot.

The result: Odisha FC 3 (18, 31 & 53) bt Gokulam Kerala 1 (Farshad Noor 36).

Abdulla wins gold in World Continental Tour athletics

Sports Bureau

Abdulla Aboobacker, the Commonwealth Games silver medallist who had been struggling to cross 16m in two meets early this season, won the men's triple jump gold at the 57th Oda Mikio memorial athletics meet in Hiroshima on Saturday.

The 27-year-old Indian produced his best, 16.31m, in his last effort to finish ahead of Australian champion Hinson Aiden (16.18m) in the World Athletics Continental Tour-Bronze event in Japan.

Abdulla had won the Commonwealth Games silver with 17.02m last year, but this season he could only manage 15.93 and 15.77, finishing third in the two domestic meets he competed in March.

Meanwhile, Ankita stunningly bettered her personal best by more than 20s (previous best 15:55.15s) while finishing fifth in the 5000m clocking 15:33.24.

That saw the 21-year-old comfortably achieve the Athletics Federation of India's Asian Games qualification 'guideline' of 15:49.00.

Kenya's Teresiah Muthoni, the under-20 World champion, won the gold in 15:13.41.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Triumphant: The victorious MSRIT team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MSRIT is the champion
Host MSRIT defeated RVCE in the final to emerge as the Ramaiah IT Diamond Jubilee and Centenary Celebration of Dr. M.S. Ramaiah all-India inter-engineering college cricket tournament champion.
The scores, final: MSRIT 195/4 in 28 overs (Akshan Rao 70, Deepak Shankar 67) bt RVCE 146 in 22.3 overs (V. Abhiram 49, Adarsh Rangappa 25, S. Amey 4 for 36).

Thumping win for Six CA
Six CA defeated RXCA by 150 runs in the Tiger Cup under-14 cricket tournament.
The scores: Six 255 in 30 overs (Om Agarwal 47, Krish Dhami 42, Panshul Sharma 41, R. Poonacha 40, Siddharth Sarda 3/32) bt RX 105/7 in 30 overs (Ayushmaan Vaidhyana 34).
Kapil 177/9 in 30 overs (Preet 56, R. Tejas 29) lost to Just 180/7 in 29.3 overs (Vikram 55, Amarnath Reddy 36, B. Hariharan 3/19).

Big win for Greater Chennai City Police
Greater Chennai City Police whipped Blue Star Hockey Club 9-1 in the 92nd Travancore Cup hockey tournament.
The result: Greater Chennai City Police 9 (S. Gokul 10, 33, Aravind Rajan 12, M. Sarvanan 15, 19, M. Guna 31, G. Poovarasan 37, Jai Kumar 40, D. Raja 45) bt Blue Star 1 (Achaiah 49).

Fight continues as Brij Bhushan levels counter allegations

WRESTLING

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Amidst rumours of his resigning and wrestlers accusing him of pressurising them to end their protest and the Delhi Police of high-handedness, beleaguered Wrestling Federation chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh finally spoke to the media, saying it was orchestrated by a political-industrialist nexus.

Denying any plan to resign – a cosmetic move more than anything else, given the incumbent WFI board has been replaced by an Ad-hoc committee and Singh himself declaring he won't contest the next elections – the strongman from Gonda also accused the wrestlers of wanting preferential selection for international events, something denied by Vinesh Phogat.

Not giving up: Wrestlers Bajrang, Vinesh, and Sakshi at the protest site on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"I have been wrestling since 2009 and in the 14 years since then, I have only skipped four national championships," she said.

I don't consider myself special to demand any such thing," Vinesh declared.

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